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Anxious woman carrying her two children and belongings flees Beirut's southern suburbs. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rival Shiites fight in West Beirut Israeli jets blast Lebanese militia positions

SIDON, Nov 25, (Reuters): Israeli jets pounded Lebanese militia positions in Lebanon today killing at least five people and wounding 13, as rival Shiite gunmen fought in the streets of West Beirut.

In two successive raids, three Israeli warplanes, protected by two others, fired eight rockets at positions of the Lebanese Sunni Muslim Popular Liberation Army (PLA) which controls Sidon, 40 km (25 miles) south of Beirut.

The PLA said the raids were aimed at PLA military positions in an attempt to destroy them but also hit densely populated residential areas.

Rescuers pulled at least four PLA fighters from under the rubble of a two-storey building hit in the raid, a PLA statement said.

"Fighters trapped under rubble could be heard moaning as their comrades tried to save them," a witness said.

Security

Explosions echoed across Sidon and clouds of black smoke rose over the targets, witnesses said. Ambulances and fire trucks raced to the area.

Security sources said that among the 13 wounded were three children and five PLA fighters.

First reports identified the targets as Palestinian but security and military sources later confirmed the attacks were on PLA position in the Al Nafia area near Sidon.

Israeli drones carrying out post-raid reconnaissance flights over the bombed area met a hail of anti-aircraft fire from PLA positions.

The attack was the first by Israeli jets this year on PLA positions. They normally target Palestinian strongholds in the area.

Witnesses said today's raids, Israel's 25th on Lebanon this year, blasted at least six bomb craters in the ground and demolished part of a main highway.

Controls

In Tel Aviv, an Israeli Army spokesman said Israeli planes attacked "terrorist" positions north of Sidon and returned safely to base after destroying their targets, including a large ammunition depot.

At least 87 people have been killed in Israeli air strikes on Lebanon this year.

Israel's last raid, on Tuesday, hit Palestinian targets outside the refugee camps on Ain Al Hilweh and Miyeh Miyeh near Sidon, killing six people and wounding seven.

The PLA controls Sidon while Palestinian guerrillas command refugee camps and other bases southeast of the city.

Ain Al Hilweh and Miyeh Miyeh house an estimated 80,000 Palestinian refugees and are the

main bastion in Lebanon for fighters loyal to PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Explosions and the screams of women and children fleeing crossfire wracked the southern suburbs and Muslim West Beirut as rival gunmen fought today, wounding at least 18 people, security sources said.

Six people were killed in clashes yesterday.

Fighters of the Syrian-backed Amal and the pro-Iranian Hezbollah blasted each other's positions in Wadi Abu Gemayl with rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and machinegun fire.

Militia sources said the fighting broke out after Hezbollah gunmen ambushed a car carrying Amal members as they drove through the area, under the control of Hezbollah.

The ambush wounded two Amal militiamen and sparked a fresh round of violence which spread to Kantari, Ain Mreisseh and Sanayeh areas in the capital.

Flareup

Hospital and militia sources said at least 18 people were wounded in the latest flareup, lifting to 38 the number wounded since fighting erupted between the two rivals yesterday.

Yesterday's fighting subsided with a Syrian-sponsored truce after eight hours of street battles. Syrian troops fanned out to separate the gunmen.

(Continued on Page 2)

PLO applies to US for Arafat's visa

TUNIS, Nov 25, (Agencies): The PLO submitted chairman Yasser Arafat's passport to the US consulate in Tunis today with an application for a visa to address the United Nations in New York on Dec 1.

Arafat's application has put the PLO and the United States on a collision course, with Washington under domestic pressure to reject it and the PLO insisting the US must grant the visa under its agreement with the United Nations.

The PLO's permanent representative at the UN, Zehdi Labib Terzi, handed in Arafat's Algerian diplomatic passport with his own and that of PLO executive committee member Jamal Al Sourani to US consul John Noyes.

Return

Terzi told reporters he would return later in the day with the passport of Mahmoud Darwish, the Palestinian poet who is also an executive committee member.

"They told me I should just leave the papers and call back," he added. Asked if he expected a response from the US administration today, he said, "I might get an answer."

Richard Underland, public affairs officer at the US embassy said Arafat's and the other applications have been referred to Washington for a decision, "which is standard procedure for a visa of this sort."

State Department spokesman Charles Redman has said Washington will scrutinise the application carefully but has not said whether it will grant the visa.

The US does not accept the PLO's assurances that it condemns terrorism and 51 senators have urged Secretary of State George Shultz to bar Arafat from the US on the grounds that the PLO is a terrorist organisation.

Provoke

Sen. Christopher Dodd a congressional member of the US delegation to the UN General Assembly said that if Arafat addresses the assembly it will provoke such outrage that Congress will suspend US funding for the UN.

The US owes the UN about \$215 million in unpaid 1988 dues, another \$122 million in dues from prior years, plus \$93 million in unpaid peacekeeping assessments.

Arafat wants to address the General Assembly at the start of its annual session on Palestine PLO "foreign minister" Farouk Kaddoumi told Tunisian journalists this week Arafat would ask for a UN seat for the newly proclaimed Palestinian state.

If a UN seat was not forthcoming, he would ask the international organisation to freeze Israel's membership.

The PLO argues that the state proclaimed by the Palestinian parliament in Algiers on Nov 15 is based legally on the UN plan to partition the British mandate of Palestine in 1947.

The plan envisaged the creation of two states, one Arab and one Jewish. The Jewish state became Israel in 1948.

The Algerian authorities issued Arafat's diplomatic passport on Nov 15 this year, the day the state of Palestine was proclaimed, Terzi said.

Israel today urged the US again to refuse Arafat entry to New York.

US envoy meets Benazir for a second time

ISLAMABAD, Nov 25, (Reuters): US Ambassador Robert Oakley today met with Pakistan People's Party leader Benazir Bhutto bolstering impressions here she will be the next prime minister.

It was Oakley's second meeting with Benazir in three days.

Oakley spent more than an hour today at the Islamabad house where Benazir is staying. He waved to reporters as he left but did not stop his embassy car to comment on the meeting.



Benazir

Political analysts said Benazir's nomination as prime minister looked more certain after the visit.

"It seems that the green light has been given," one leader commentator remarked outside the house.

The PPP won 99 seats in the Nov 16 elections. But her rivals in the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA), which won 57 seats, are trying to form a coalition together with independents and minority parties.

Wait

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has put off asking any of the contenders to form a government. Aides have said he would probably wait until after the new Parliament elected its speaker on Dec 7.

Chinese Ambassador Tian Ding was the second ambassador to call on Benazir. He met her yesterday.

Benazir, 35, would be the first woman elected to govern a Muslim country if nominated as prime minister.

Discussions

Maulana Abdul Sattar Khan Niazi, secretary-general of the Jama'at Ulema-e-Pakistan today met Ishaq Khan.

He was the fifth political leader to meet the President to hold discussions about the formation of the new government.

Niazi said neither the PPP nor the IDA have been able to conclusively prove their majority.

Iran and Iraq release 71

Controversy mars POW exchange

GENEVA, Nov 25, (Agencies): The International Committee of the Red Cross today was in contact with both Iran and Iraq to resolve a controversy that marred the start of the first major exchange of prisoners since fighting ended on Aug 20 in the eight-year-old war.

Both sides had sent back yesterday less than half the daily number envisaged under an accord they signed with the ICRC early this month during the latest round of their UN-mediated Gulf talks.

The ICRC spoke of a "set-back" but a spokesman, Juerg Bischof, said that the humanitarian organisation remained hopeful that it would not jeopardise the object of the accord which provides for the return of all sick and wounded prisoners by the end of the year.

Responsible

He said Red Cross delegates in Baghdad and Tehran are in touch with the responsible officials in the capitals and other contacts were made through diplomatic channels in an effort to smooth out "differences of interpretation" that arose.

Bischof said plans to continue the exchange tomorrow were unchanged. "We hope that this time the numbers of returns will be as planned." Under the terms of the accord, 115 Iraqis and 41 Iranians were to be repatriated on flights scheduled daily except today, during the next two weeks.

Only 52 Iraqi and 19 Iranian prisoners of war were flown home yesterday aboard a ICRC-chartered jetliner. Iran said 36 of those picked for the first flight had sought or were already granted political asylum, and that another 27 had completely recovered so that they would no longer meet the criteria for repatriation.

Iraq accused Iran of reneging on the accord. It reacted by reducing the number of Iranians sent home.

Iraq said it deliberately reduced the number of Iranian POWs sent to Tehran in retaliation for alleged "cheating" by Iran. An Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman said the government had been expecting 115 Iraqi POWs to be repatriated in the initial exchange, but Iran returned only 52.

"Out of the principle of reciprocity, Iraq will hand over in this batch 19 Iranian POWs instead of 41 and will continue to pursue the same policy," said the spokesman in a dispatch by the official Iraqi News Agency monitored in Kuwait.

The spokesman accused Iran of "cheating and blackmail in dealing with the POW issue," and urged the international community "to pressure Iran" to move forward.

Under the accord, both sides have pledged that registration of all other disabled prisoners by the ICRC can start on Dec 5. "We have no reason to assume that this date will be changed," Bischof said. These POWs are to be repatriated by Dec 31. The ICRC has said the exchange will "facilitate" the repatriation of all prisoners.

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اقتصاد و صنایع

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- مقبضہ ہونے کے بعد کوئی
- امریکی سفیر سے بے نظیر
- ایک اور ملاقات
- صدر اسحاق سے عبداللہ
- نیازی کی ملاقات
- ایران اور عراق میں
- قیدیوں کا تبادلہ
- مصر اور الجزائر میں سفارت
- تعلقات کا قیام
- پاکستان کے نظام تعلیم
- خصوصی مضمون

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un temperature recorded:
22°C 72°F
20°C 68°F
19°C 66°F

in temperature recorded:
21°C 70°F
20°C 68°F
19°C 66°F

an temperature expected:
23°C 73°F
21°C 70°F
20°C 68°F

in humidity recorded:
57 per cent
60 per cent
67 per cent

Bofors arms scandal

Indian opposition demands new probe

NEW DELHI, Nov 25, (Reuters): Indian opposition leaders today demanded a new parliamentary probe after a newspaper published documents it said showed Indians had received illegal commissions from Sweden's Bofors arms company.

Bofors sold India field guns worth \$1.3 billion in its largest single arms deal after reaching an understanding with India that no middlemen would be involved.

The allegations that illegal commissions were paid first surfaced in April last year and have dogged Prime Minister Rajiv

Gandhi who has repeatedly denied payments were made to any Indian.

In the lower house of Parliament angry opposition members, demanding a motion to adjourn the house over the issue, were locked in bitter exchanges with members of Rajiv's ruling Congress (I) Party.

In the upper house, M. S. Gurupadaswamy of the opposition Janata Party demanded a fresh parliamentary committee to investigate if Indian middlemen were involved and paid for their efforts.

An earlier committee, boycotted by most opposition parties, concluded that no Indians had received illegal payments.

Gurupadaswamy said documents published in the Hindu newspaper yesterday showed government statements were a fabrication.

The Bofors scandal has given the opposition plenty of ammunition to use against Rajiv, whose "Mr Clean" image has suffered.

Rajiv's former Finance Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, now his toughest opponent and main challenger in elections due next year, has accused him of being personally corrupt.

Israeli paratroopers jailed for rampage

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Nov 25, (AP): Twenty-one paratroopers were sentenced to up to two weeks in jail for smashing cars and houses windows during a rampage in a Palestinian refugee camp, the Army said today.

In clashes in two Gaza Strip refugee camps, troops wounded two Palestinians, a 14-year-old from Nuseirat and a 16-year-old from Bureij. Both suffered head shots, and the older was in serious condition, Arab hospital officials said.

An Israeli officer, meanwhile, testified that four soldiers standing trial for the beating death of a Palestinian from Gaza's Jabalya refugee camp carried out the orders of their superiors.

"The order to beat Arab rioters came straight from the commander of the Gaza Strip, Brig. Gen. Zvi Poleg, and the soldiers were carrying out the spirit of the order," the Hada-shot newspaper quoted Lieut. Rafil Tawil as telling the military court.

(Continued on Page 2)

US not committed to Gulf peace: Iran

Khomeini wants to build a 20-million-man army

NICOSIA, Nov 25, (Agencies): Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini has said Iran should build a 20-million-man army to defeat plots of the United States and the Soviet Union.

"Whether in war or in peace, it would be the height of folly to think that world-gobblers, especially America and the Soviet Union, have given up on us and dear Islam," he said in a message read on Tehran Radio.

"I stress again that neglecting the task of building the 20-million-man army would lead to our falling into the trap of the two superpowers."

Khomeini's message marked the anniversary of his order on the formation of Basij Mostazafan (mobilisation of the oppressed), a militia force which played an important role in early massive Iranian offensive in the war against Iraq.

"A country which has 20 million men must have 20 million arm-bearers," Khomeini said in his decree eight years ago.

"Officials of the Islamic system will burn in God's hell fire if they neglect you," he addressed the basijis (volunteers) in his message.

Iran's population is estimated at 50 million.

The basij command said earlier this month the organisation, which comes under orders of the Revolutionary Guards, sent four million of its members to the war fronts before a UN-mediated ceasefire ended fighting in August.

It said 60,000 basijis died in action, half the total number of Iranians killed on the front.

Sincere

Iranian strongman Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told a prayer meeting in Tehran today he doubted the US was sincere in its pledge to maintain security in

the Gulf, and accused the Reagan administration of wrongly portraying Iran as the country seeking improved ties with Washington.

"If you are really honest in your claims, why don't you act against Iraq, which is openly impeding the peace talks (with Iran)?" Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Rafsanjani as saying.

Rafsanjani accused the Reagan administration of "trying to approach the Islamic Republic of Iran, for resumption of diplomatic ties and release of its hostages in Lebanon."

But the Speaker of Parliament and acting military commander said he regretted the United States was "falsely portraying Iran as the party favouring the rapprochement."

US Secretary of State George Shultz in earlier statements indicated Iran wanted to improve ties with the United States after the Aug 20 Iran-Iraq ceasefire.

But Shultz said there was no question of restoring diplomatic ties with Iran until Tehran stopped its support for international terrorism and nine American hostages in Lebanon were free.

INTERNATIONAL

New drug kills AIDS-infected cells

DALLAS, Nov 25, (Reuters): Researchers at the University of Texas southwest medical centre announced yesterday they have developed a drug capable of killing cells infected by the AIDS virus while leaving healthy cells unaffected.

The drug, which has yet to be proved in clinical trials on humans, uses a plant protein to attack only infected cells, the centre said in a statement.

Dr Jonathan Uhr, chairman of the University of Texas microbiology department and one of the project's principal investigators, predicted that it will be a year before the drug, still in the test-tube stage, can be tested on humans.

Laboratory animals cannot be used for AIDS drug testing because they do not develop the disease.

Powerful

Uhr said he expects the new drug would have fewer toxic side-effects than drugs currently available.

"The other drugs being used to treat AIDS are all powerful pharmacological agents with high degrees of toxicity," he said.

"They enter the cell and prevent the virus from replicating. This (the new drug) works like a missile aimed only at the infected cells."

The findings are due to be published today in science magazine.

Uhr said the new drug might also be used in conjunction with current AIDS treatments. "The synergistic effect of both drugs could be more powerful than either used individually," he said.

Meanwhile, the largest treatment study of AIDS patients yet made has found the drug AZT is effective in improving survival rates, a report published yesterday in Chicago said.

After 44 weeks of treatment with AZT, the only drug thus far licensed by the US government to fight the deadly disease, 73 per cent of the 4,805 patients suffering from AIDS survived, according to the report's author, Terri Creagh-Kirk of Burroughs Wellcome Co.

The company is the manufacturer of the drug now known as Zidovudine.

Pretoria would ease restrictions

Mandela moves gradually towards freedom

CAPE TOWN, Nov 25, (Reuters): Nelson Mandela is being gradually returned to freedom after 26 years in South African prisons, politicians and family friends said today.

An announcement by Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee yesterday that Mandela would not go back to prison when he recovers from tuberculosis reinforced theories of a phased release for the 70-year-old black nationalist leader, they said.

"I see very clearly within that framework (of a phased release)," Dave Dalling, justice spokesman for the opposition liberal Progressive Federal Party, told Reuters.

Dalling said the government had realised that the new constitution with black leaders would not succeed without Mandela's participation.

Prepare

"The only alternative for the government is to release Mandela. This is a way to prepare the ground," he said.

He said he believed the government would now try to woo Mandela into negotiations.

Essa Moosa, a lawyer and friend of the Mandela family, said the move confirmed Mandela would be freed in stages.

Mandela, serving a life sentence for plotting to overthrow white rule, is a powerful symbol of opposition to apartheid and his release has been sought by governments worldwide.

Black leaders like Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi have refused to negotiate with Pretoria on ending apartheid unless the African National Congress (ANC) leader is freed.

Coetsee said Pretoria would ease restrictions on Mandela and grant freer access to his family when he was fit enough to leave the private Cape Town clinic where he is being treated.

"When the time arrives, he will be transferred to suitable, comfortable and secure living accommodation where he will be able to receive members of his family more freely and on a continual basis," he said.

Coetsee did not say where Mandela would be taken or if he would eventually be released.

In Harare ANC President Oliver Tambo demanded the full release of Mandela, his close friend and colleague.

"What we have been waiting for is his release to his family and the whole country, so he is free to move around and meet people. We haven't got that yet," Tambo said.

France welcomed the easing of restrictions on Mandela but Britain's anti-apartheid movement said it was not enough and called on the world to press for his release.

Government officials say privately that releasing Mandela could spark an explosion in South Africa's black townships, where he has almost mythical status. Political analysts say the phased release is designed to lessen the impact.

Moosa said he believed Mandela would be transferred to a house probably in the Johannesburg area to allow easy access to his family who live in the nearby black township of Soweto.

He dismissed suggestions by Coetsee that Mandela could not be freed now because of assassination threats from left- or right-wing extremists. "They don't want to release him and they are using that as an excuse," he said.

US evangelist Pat Robertson said yesterday President P.W. Botha had indicated to him that Mandela will not return to prison after he recovers from his present illness.

Instead he would be "placed in some other environment," Robertson told reporters after seeing the South African leader.

Constitution

BELGRADE, Nov 25, (AP): Yugoslavia's Parliament today adopted amendments to the federal constitution designed to pave the way for radical economic changes and streamline the country's complex communist political system.

Dusk-to-dawn curfew clamped on Yerevan

Violence spreads to Armenia

MOSCOW, Nov 25, (Reuters): Two people were killed in separate incidents as ethnic violence spread from Azerbaijan to neighbouring Armenia in the Soviet Transcaucasus, an official Armenian source said today.

The source, who declined to be identified, said an Azerbaijani and an Armenian were killed in the Armenian towns of Goris and Kalinin yesterday.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew was clamped on the Armenian capital Yerevan today and troops and armoured personnel carriers were stationed on the streets.

Curfews

But a spokesman for the Armenian news agency Armenpress said there had been no incidents in Yerevan.

Curfews were earlier clamped on the Azerbaijani capital Baku and towns of Kirovabad and Nakhichevan after rioting in which three soldiers were officially reported killed and 126 people, mostly Azerbaijanis, were injured.

With those three cities still tense, Armenian refugees — caught up in the renewed violence over the disputed Azerbaijan territory of Nagorno-Karabakh — streamed across the border onto neighbouring Armenia.

The Armenpress spokesman said about 1,700 Armenian

refugees had arrived, many of them helped by Soviet troops.

In the latest incidents the Armenian source said the Azerbaijani attacked an Armenian family. He had no information about the Azerbaijani's death.

Fresh details were also beginning to emerge about events in Kirovabad, where three soldiers were killed on Tuesday after they were called in to separate Muslim Azerbaijanis from Christian Armenians.

Burned

The Armenian source said 60 Armenian houses in the town were burned down by Azerbaijani mobs. Eighty Azerbaijanis were being held in the military garrison and an investigation was being carried out by a Soviet federal prosecutor.

He denied reports circulating among Armenian sources in Moscow and emigre groups in Paris that many Armenians had been killed.

Casualties

"No Armenians were killed in Kirovabad," he said. "The Armenian quarter of Kirovabad is safely guarded by troops. Armenians living in other districts have been transferred there."

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov also said there had been no more

casualties in Kirovabad since the soldiers died there on Tuesday.

"Yesterday, it was much calmer there," he said. "There is a curfew there and it helps."

Baku also appeared quieter, although troops in armoured cars and trucks patrolled the streets and meetings were held in the centre of the city, an Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

A spokesman for the regional Communist Party committee said the situation in the Nakhichevan region was gradually returning to normal and troops had withdrawn from the town on Wednesday.

He said Armenians had moved to the town from outlying villages to escape clashes but he cast doubt on reports that the Army had used helicopters in the evacuation.

There was no indication when the dusk-to-dawn curfew on the three Azerbaijani areas would be lifted.

The Azerbaijani ministry spokesman quoted unconfirmed reports that Azerbaijanis living in Armenia were now fleeing the country.

Some 400 people have died and more than 400 have been injured this year in unrest triggered by demands — so far unsuccessful — from the Armenian majority in Nagorno-Karabakh for the region to be transferred to Armenia.

Hungary's new premier pledges to speed reforms

BUDAPEST, Nov 25, (Reuters): Hungary has appointed a 40-year-old economist as prime minister, pledged to speeding reforms and forging a new brand of communism.

Miklos Nemeth, a former economics lecturer who spent a year at Harvard University, was elected overwhelmingly by Parliament yesterday to replace Karoly Grosz.

But in a rare show of resistance to the Communist Party's single nomination, 27 members voted against him and 36 abstained.

In an acceptance speech, Nemeth committed himself to the alliance with the Soviet Union, openness to the West and competition to force quality from an economy saddled with the highest per capita debt in eastern Europe.

Revised "We are searching for a solution on untried terrain," Nemeth said. "The stakes are high. The perspective of socialism is connected to the fate of Hungary." Grosz resigned the job he has revitalised over the past 17 months to concentrate on reforming the party he took over from János Kádár in May.

Politburo member János Lukacs said the party had nominated Nemeth as a "young, dynamic workhorse" able to take pragmatic and rapid decisions.

US Ambassador Mark Palmer greeted him as a man committed to reform and pushing ahead. Nemeth has guided party economic policy since June 1987, when he entered the central committee and became its secretary for economic affairs in a single leap.

Palmer, who plays tennis with Nemeth, said he believed the new prime minister would be energetic in tackling such economic problems as cutting budget subsidies and attracting foreign capital.

Nemeth's predecessor, veteran reformer Károlyi Nyers, 65, elected to a major new post of state minister for economic issues after himself being tipped heavily for prime minister. Both Nemeth and Nyers are party politburo members.

Thousands attend funeral services for Christina

NEA SMYRNI, Greece, Nov 25, (AP): Several thousand mourners attended funeral services today for shipping heiress Christina Onassis at a cathedral her father helped build in this Athens suburb.

About 500 friends and relatives packed the St Fotini Cathedral to hear 15 priests perform the 45-minute Greek Orthodox funeral liturgy.

Ms Onassis' silver-bordered, brown mahogany coffin lay under the cathedral's dome as the grey bearded, golden-robed priests chanted the Byzantine sermon accompanied by an all-male choir.

Thierry Roussel, Ms Onassis' fourth ex-husband, stood alone behind the flower-covered coffin that was flanked by Ms Onassis' relatives and members of the Dodero family.

Services

Roussel, who divorced Ms Onassis after two years of marriage in 1987, would not comment on the death of his late wife after the services in response to reporters' questions.

Ms Onassis, 37, died of a pulmonary edema last Saturday in the Buenos Aires, Argentina, home of Alberto Dodero. The shipping heiress and Marina Dodero, Alberto's wife, were long-time friends.

Greek government ministers, politicians, shipowners and businessmen stood under the cathedral's frescoed ceilings as the priests read the last rites. More than 3,000 people standing in the rain outside the cathedral and lining nearby apartment building balconies, clapped and threw rose petals according to Greek tradition as young pallbearers from the Alexander Onassis Public Benefit Foundation carried the casket outside the church.

Scholarship

"Life to you" they yelled as Roussel and Onassis relatives filed out of the cathedral.

The pallbearers had all received scholarships from the foundation for post-graduate studies outside Greece. The foundation, set up by her father Aristotle and named after her dead brother, also gives annual awards for outstanding work in scholarship, human rights and the environment.

A spokesman for the foundation said Ms Onassis' body would be flown to the island of Skorpios, on Greece's northwest coast, later in the day for burial at a private ceremony tomorrow. The spokesman, Prof Ioannis Georgakidis, said Ms Onassis would be buried next to her father and brother in a mausoleum on the small island.

Israeli paratroopers jailed for rampage

(Continued from Page 1)

The paratroopers sentenced to jail terms rampaged through the Kalandia refugee camp north of Jerusalem on Sunday night after their bus was stoned. At least four cars and 20 houses were damaged.

The Army Chief of Staff, Lieut. Gen. Dan Shomron, said the rampage was indefensible. He noted that the paratroopers attended an officers training course and thus belonged to the Army's elite.

The incident had nothing to do with a misunderstanding of orders," Shomron said on Israel Radio. "The Army insists that orders be carried out exactly."

Standing orders allow troops to use force to catch rioters, but bar them from beating people or damaging property once a protest has been dispersed and demonstrators are in custody.

The paratroopers were sentenced to a week to two weeks in jail, an Army spokesman said. He said three sergeants were given two-week sentences with a further two weeks suspended. Their squadron leader was sentenced on Tuesday to two weeks in prison.

The military court trial of the four soldiers involved the beating death of Hani El Shemi, 43, who died on Aug 22 in Jabalya.

Soldier Haim Teferberg who witnessed the incident said El Shemi was brought to the military base in Jabalya.

Returned

Meanwhile, the government press office has returned the credentials of three journalists whose press cards were lifted last month after they filed stories in which Arabs accused Israel of running undercover intelligence units in the territories. One report said the units had orders to shoot to kill fugitive organisers of the Palestinian uprising.

Israeli authorities strongly denied the stories.

The press office returned the credentials of Reuter Bureau chief Paul Taylor, Reuter reporter Steve Weisman and Andrew Whitley, correspondent for the London-based Financial Times, Israel Radio reported. The GPO had suspended their cards because they failed to submit their stories to the military censor.

Police were investigating the alleged censorship violation to determine whether any criminal charges would be brought.

Israeli jets blast Lebanese...

(Continued from Page 1)

In today's fighting the sound of exploding mortars and rocket-propelled grenades thundered across the Lebanese capital, sparking panic among motorists and pedestrians passing in the area.

In Beirut's southern suburbs, screams of women and children pierced the crackle of machine-gun fire the two foes exchanged as they struggled for control of the predominantly Shiite area. Streams of car packed with people and furniture threaded their way out of the southern suburbs.

Yesterday's battles were the worst in six months between the two militias, vying for control of Lebanon's estimated 1.5 million Shiites in the crowded suburbs and south Lebanon since 1984.

Women

Scores of old men, veiled women and children carrying plastic bags full of clothes ran for safe areas on the outskirts of the maze of narrow streets. Others appeared too dazed to move.

A Muslim security source said that tension between the two Shiite forces had steadily built up since Amal ousted Hezbollah from south Lebanon last April in five days of fierce battles.

The security source said Hezbollah still demanded to be allowed to return its fighters to south Lebanon while Amal refused to allow them back.

Mousetrappers

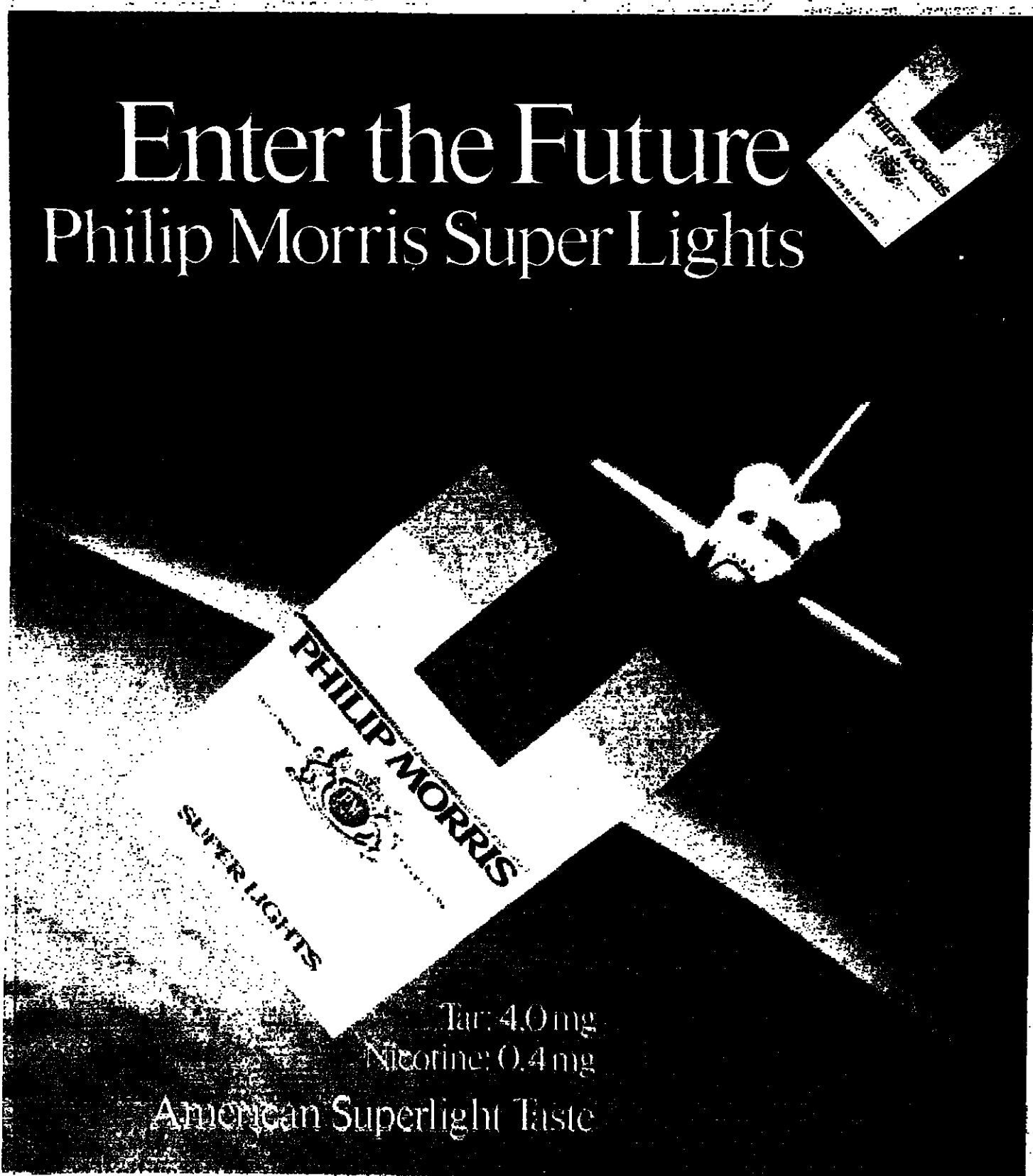
LONDON, Nov 25, (Reuters): The crime thriller play Agatha Christie gave her grandson for his ninth birthday is still keeping audiences on the edge of their seats 36 years later.

"The Mousetrap," the world's longest-running play, will in two weeks time have its 15,000th performance since it opened in London's West End in 1952.

Actors and actresses who have appeared in the play over the years turned out in force yesterday to celebrate what has become a British theatrical institution.

Guests of honour at London's Savoy Hotel included 30 actresses who played Mollie Ralston, the leading role in Christie's Whodunnit. One of them admitted falling asleep one night on stage.

Enter the Future Philip Morris Super Lights



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Khomeini defends Musavi

NICOSIA, Nov 25, (Reuters): Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, gave public backing yesterday to Prime Minister Mir Hossein Musavi, who has come under attack for his economic policies.

Khomeini, who rebuked Musavi in September for attempting to resign, said he was affirming his support for the prime minister to end "doubts which some people might want to create about your government."

"I consider you a competent and devoted individual for the Islamic revolution and will not forget your services during the war... I endorse and support you now, too," Khomeini said in a message read on Tehran Radio.

Resalat newspaper, mouthpiece of the Iranian private sector, has accused Musavi's cabinet of foot-dragging in loosening the government's grip on the economy.

Defend

Musavi has defended the policies of tight economic controls imposed during the eight-year war with Iraq, saying that it would be harmful to give away to private businessmen.

Khomeini said a special council would announce measures to rebuild the economy after the war and urged Musavi to organize the effort with special attention to the needs of poor people.

17 slaughtered

CEBU, Philippines, Nov 25, (Reuters): Unidentified gunmen riddled a packed Philippine village chapel with gunfire, killing 17 people and wounding 12, the military and survivors said yesterday.

"People inside were screaming and crying. I threw stones at the gunmen and then I ran out of stones so I just lay flat on the ground," said 27-year-old farmer Jose Canillo in hospital where he was being treated for his wounds.

The state-owned Philippine News Agency said communist rebels were believed responsible for the massacre, in which the dead included elderly people and children aged from two to nine.

Floods devastate Thailand and Malaysia

Rains trigger mudslides killing 227

BANGKOK, Nov 25, (UPI): Rescue workers digging through mountain villages buried under tons of mud and mud found more bodies today, raising the death toll from slides and flooding in Thailand and Malaysia to at least 227.

Officials said widespread illegal logging that denuded hills above the stricken villages had worsened the tragedy.

Thai officials said 200 people were killed and 194 missing in Thailand's 12 southernmost provinces. In Malaysia, officials said the death toll rose to 27 today, with some 47,000 people still huddling in evacuation centres.

Rainfall eased today after six days of torrential downpours, but the people of southern Thailand and neighbouring northern Malaysia were still stunned by the extent of the destruction.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, visiting victims of the floods, called the destruction "extraordinary — hitting areas which were not known to be flood-prone."

Many villages in low-lying areas were still under water in Malaysia, but the worst devastation came in mountainous areas of southern Thailand.

Col Banchoo Chavansil, spokesman for Thailand's southern-based Fourth Army, said waves of mud and logs, loosened by the rain, rushed down mountainsides in at least two places in Nakorn Srithammarat province, about 360 miles (580 km) south of Bangkok.

Banchoo said 132 bodies had been recovered from the devastated mountain villages in Phibul and Lanaka districts, and 131 of the injured were hospitalised. Hundreds more were feared buried under the mud, he said.

"I don't know what the final death toll will be, but the figure must be very high," Banchoo said in a telephone interview.

"Bodies keep coming in all the time."

He said more than 1,000 soldiers were assisting civilian authorities in rescue operations.

Officials said 68 bodies were dug from the mud in four other villages.

Initial estimates of the damage in Thailand included 680,000 acres (270,000 hectares) of orchards and ricefields destroyed, 1,007 shrimp farms wiped out, 2,200 houses swept away, and at least 288 bridges seriously damaged.

Deputy Interior Minister Trairong Surwankhri, who inspected some of the worst-hit provinces, said damage would exceed 10 billion baht (\$400 million).

Nakorn Srithammarat Governor Nipon Bunyapattarak said rescue workers were trying to reach people still stranded by the flood waters.

"We have already sent out more than 100 helicopter sorties to help them, but all we can do is drop food and medicine to them," he said.

Television pictures taken from helicopters showed vast areas under water with torrents surging across broken highways. Many houses were pulled from their foundations or smashed by tons of logs and debris.



Two highway policemen have a quiet time at a junction on the flooded main highway through southern Thailand.

Algeria restores ties with Egypt

CAIRO, Nov 25, (Agencies): Algeria and Egypt restored full diplomatic relations after a nine-year break, the Middle East News Agency said.

Algeria becomes the 12th Arab country to restore full diplomatic relations with Egypt in one year.

The news agency said a joint statement announcing restoration of "full diplomatic relations as of today, Nov 24," was issued in Cairo and Algiers.

Eleven other Arab states have already done so following last November's Arab League summit in Amman, Jordan, that had authorised member states of the 22-member League to restore ties with Egypt on an individual basis.

Only Syria, Libya and Lebanon continue the Arab diplomatic boycott of Egypt, which began in 1979 when Egypt signed the Camp David peace accord with Israel. Sudan, Somalia and Oman did not join the boycott.

Suspend

In March 1979, Egypt's membership of the Arab League was suspended as a result of concluding the peace pact with Israel.

Jordan unilaterally restored full diplomatic ties with Cairo in 1984 and was later followed by Djibouti.

Libya today ruled out restoring diplomatic relations with Egypt as long as it has ties with Israel.

"Libya cannot resume its relations with Egypt as long as the Israeli flag flies in Cairo," a Foreign Ministry statement quoted by the Libyan News Agency Jana said.

"Libya cannot abandon its stand against Israel but at the same time hopes Egypt returns to the Arab camp," Jana, received in Beirut, added.

The Libyan statement followed restoration of diplomatic relations between Algeria and Egypt and rare praise for Egypt from Syria.

Jordan asked to arrange Afghan talks in Makkah

ISLAMABAD, Nov 25, (Reuters): The Soviet-backed Kabul government said it had asked Jordan to help arrange peace talks in the holy city of Makkah with Afghan guerrillas.

President Najibullah made the request in a message submitted to King Hussein of Jordan on Monday by special envoy Abdul Ghafoor Baher, the official Afghan news agency, Bakhtar, reported.

The guerrillas fighting to top-

ple Najibullah's government rejected holding peace talks in the Saudi Arabian holy city when he first proposed the idea in October as part of a "national reconciliation" drive.

Moscow is considering formally postponing its troop withdrawal from Afghanistan in the face of mounting attacks by Muslim guerrillas on Soviet Army units, official Soviet sources said in Moscow today.

Israel introduces high-speed boat

HAIFA, Israel, Nov 25, (AP): A new, high-speed patrol boat capable of carrying 130 mm rockets and torpedoes was introduced into the Israeli Navy yesterday to increase defences against sea-borne raids by Palestinian guerrillas.

The Israeli-made boat, called a Super Dvora, was turned over to the Navy at a ceremony in a Haifa naval base.

Navy officials said the guerrillas were using high-speed boats and more sophisticated rubber craft than in the past.

Roh set to pardon Chun

SEOUL, Nov 25, (Reuters): President Roh Tae-woo will make a televised appeal to South Koreans tomorrow to pardon former strongman Chun Doo Hwan, but unforgiving dissident groups have vowed to mark the day with huge street protests.

Roh, facing the tough task of calming public anger over human rights abuses and corruption in the eight-year rule of Chun, is also set to announce a package of measures to heal the scars of the past, ruling party officials said today.

They said these might include the release of political prisoners and compensation for victims.

Mentally retarded banned from having children

BEIJING, Nov 25, (AP): A Chinese province has barred mentally retarded people from having children, and the Ministry of Public Health said today it is drafting a law that would extend the ban nationwide.

The official People's Daily (Renmin Ribao) said the province's congress of Gansu province in northwestern China this week passed a law ordering sterilisation for all mentally retarded people who are married or plan to marry. The newspaper said the law orders mentally retarded women who become pregnant to have abortions.

The state family planning

commission said it was the first law of its kind in China.

"Anyone responsible for allowing mentally retarded people to give birth will be fined and subject to administrative discipline," the People's Daily said. "The mentally retarded lack productive capability and live on relief funds and grain. They are a great burden to society," the newspaper said.

Slump in US arms sales abroad

WASHINGTON, Nov 25, (AP): Overseas sales by US arms manufacturers shrank significantly in fiscal 1987 despite a strong demand for weapons by Middle East countries, a new study concludes.

The McDonnell Douglas Corp. was one of the few major defence contractors to buck the industry slump and managed to assume the position of No. 1 arms exporter with sales totalling \$657 million, the study adds.

"The value of contracts awarded to US defence contractors for military equipment and services earmarked for export abroad fell in fiscal year 1987 for the second year in a row, to \$4.9 billion — off 22 per cent from the 1986 level and a whopping 44 per cent below 1985," concludes the report.

The overall decline in foreign military sale awards led to a drop in the level of arms export business for 17 of the top 25 US arms exporting companies in 1987.

The new study was performed by the Investor Responsibility Research Centre. The report covers the fiscal year that ended Sept 30, 1987. Centre officials attributed the steep decline in US overseas sales to a small drop in overall demand coupled with an increase in competition.

54 countries recognise new Palestinian state

NICOSIA, Nov 25, (Agencies): The Palestinian state has been recognised by at least 54 countries since its declaration by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat on Nov 15.

In Moscow, Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov indicated yesterday that the Soviet Union had recognised the newly-proclaimed Palestinian state but stressed this was a political rather than juridical act.

His comments, made in response to a question at a news conference, appeared intended to clarify the Soviet position after the Kremlin last week, merely said "the recognition of a Palestinian state."

"Our practice knows no precedents when a state would be recognised while its territory was under foreign occupation and which has no government at the time of recognition," Gerasimov said. "However, this cannot be an obstacle to recognising the state in principle, although it leaves its mark on the recognition and the consequences," he added.

Pravda said Syria, meanwhile, gave rare praise to Egypt, its arch-rival in the Arab world, for recognising the Palestinian state despite what Damascus called pressure from Israel.

A senior government official said in Damascus that Syria, at loggerheads with Cairo for nine years, also approved of Egypt's commitment to the joint Arab defence treaty, which links Arab states.

King Hussein of Jordan, preparing for a visit by Arafat, has predicted warmer ties between Jordan and the PLO.

"Our ties with the PLO are close...and we expect them now to become closer," he said in an interview with the BBC Arabic service.

He attacked Israel for dismissing the PNC move, to accept UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

"I think the Israeli reaction was characterised by a high degree of stagnation...The Palestinian side has offered all it could and has met what the world had been demanding it to do. The ball is now in the other party's court."

Moratorium

A Lebanese newsletter has claimed that Arafat has called a moratorium on guerrilla attacks against Israel from Lebanon as part of efforts to promote the newly declared independent Palestinian state.

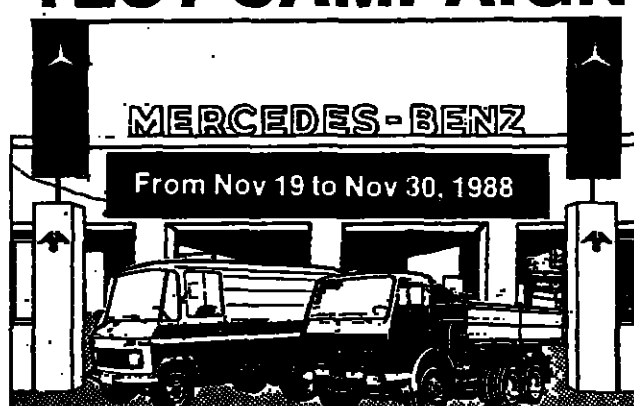
The English-language Middle East Reporter said Arafat's mainstream Palestinian faction Fatah already has received orders to halt attacks against Israel by Lebanon-based guerrillas.

The report quoted unidentified Palestinian sources as saying negotiations also were underway with other PLO groups to abide by the moratorium.

Bangladesh, which has recognised the Palestinian state proclaimed, will accredit one of its ambassadors in the Middle East to the new state, Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury said.

In a press conference in Dhaka, Chowdhury said a full ambassador would be posted in Jerusalem, as soon as Palestine is restored to the Palestinians as their homeland.

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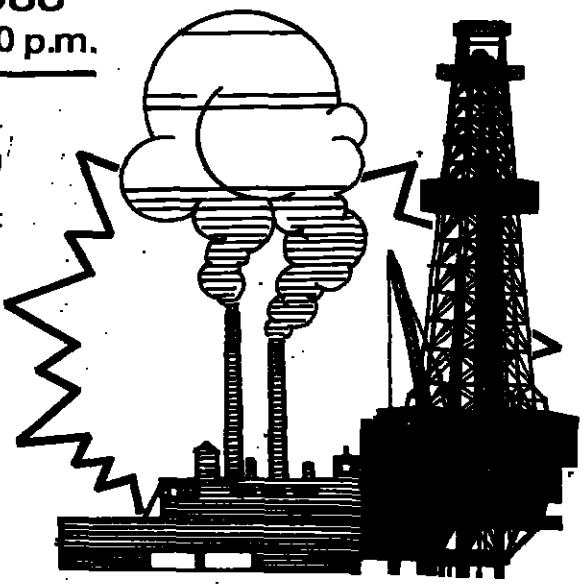
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KUWAIT ... GULF

British defence official backs PNC decision

RIYADH, Nov 25, (KUNA): British Secretary of State for Defence George Younger has described the proclamation of the Palestinian independent state as a "very constructive step."

He told a press conference he held here Thursday at the end of his official visit to Saudi Arabia that "we warmly welcome the Palestinian National Council's (PNC) announcement, and we hope the Israeli government will adopt a similar constructive step as quickly as possible."

The British official also expressed satisfaction over stoppage of the Iraqi-Iranian war and said he hopes the two countries will reach a lasting peace.

Concern
In his remarks which were carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) Younger expressed his country's concern over the deteriorating situation in Lebanon. "We are for conciliation between various factions in Lebanon," he said.

He called for freeing all hostages currently held by warring groups in Lebanon but he denied that Britain was making deals in

this connection.

During his visit to Saudi Arabia, Younger held talks with the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz, co-operation between the two countries.

Younger also conferred with Second Deputy Premier and Defence and Civil Aviation Minister and the General Inspector Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz.

Fruitful
He described his talks with the Saudi officials, as "very fruitful" and said they focused on the "Al Yamamah Project," according to which Saudi Arabia is to purchase British arms worth two billion sterling pounds.

Before his departure, Younger conveyed a message to Saudi monarch King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The content of the message was not revealed.

The British secretary of defence started his visit to Riyadh last Monday on the second leg of a tour which also included the United Arab Emirates where he discussed bilateral military co-operation.

5-year-old testifies in kidnapping case

ABU DHABI, Nov 25, (AP): A five-year-old girl told a judge trying two Irishmen on charges of kidnapping her that she "would be happy to return to her mother," court sources said today.

The girl, Nadine Naseer, was questioned on Thursday in the judge's chamber. Reporters and photographers were banned. The court sources, speaking on condition they not be further identified, quoted the girl as saying she was not afraid of the Irishmen because they said she would be taken to her mother in Ireland.

Charged
Gerald Flynn, 25, and Dennis Dennehy, 28, both from Dublin, Ireland, were charged with kidnapping Nadine on Sept 3 from her father, Dr Samir Naseer, and his second wife.

Naseer is a physician in the Arabian Sea port of Khor Fakkan, 220 kilometres (138 miles) from Abu Dhabi.

The two men were arrested after tying up her father and Filipina stepmother and taking the girl from their home.

The trial at the Khor Fakkan Criminal Court began on Nov 1. The next hearing is set for Dec 17, when the two defendants will be questioned, the court sources said.

Flynn and Dennehy admitted they took the child with the intention of returning her to the mother, but denied the charge of kidnapping. They also denied being paid for the operation.

The mother, Ann McManus, a nurse in Dublin, gained custody of Nadine when she was divorced from Naseer. But when she allowed the girl to go off on holiday with the father, he won custody from a Muslim court in Jordan.

According to the court sources, Nadine told the judge she "felt bad" when her father and her stepmother Teresa were bound and locked by Flynn and Dennehy, whom she was at first unable to identify in court.

Tape
She confirmed reports saying the defendants played a tape of her mother's voice, asking her to co-operate with Flynn and Dennehy, while the three were driving to Dubai to catch a flight to Amsterdam, the sources said.

Man sentenced for forgery

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court sentenced a man to two and a half years in jail and a fine of KD270 on charges of forgery.

The court was told that the defendant who was employed as a lorry driver, was asked by security men at the Al Abdali border to provide identification.

The defendant produced two driving licences, the authenticity of which were doubted by the security personnel. Investigations revealed that they were forged.

Civil defence training to be offered

THE primary concern of civil defence system is to protect human lives and property, according to the director of the Civil Defence Department.

The ministry is developing a wide-scale training programme for the first group of volunteers. The programme is scheduled to begin next February and not next Saturday as previously announced, he said.

Curriculum

Speaking to a local newspaper, he said that the proposed programme will involve 300 volunteers. These volunteers will receive training at 12 different civil training centres.

Participants will receive training in rescue operations and basic civil defence activities. Additionally, five specialised groups will also participate in the training programmes which will use live situations.

Doctor praises KU faculty of medicine

By Lima Al Khalafawi

THE chairman of the Department of Surgery at Mubarak Al Kabir Hospital, Professor Bo Eklof said that the level of education at Faculty of Medicine at Kuwait University (KU) is of a very high standard and more incentives should be provided to recruit fresh Kuwaiti male students.

He added that male students should be encouraged to join this field to reduce the gap between male and female graduates.

Highly qualified doctors need at least 13 years of intensive training and experience. The low salaries at the end of this tenure are the primary reason why male Kuwait doctors do not join this faculty, Eklof said. Most prefer to go into business or other faculties.

Mubarak Al Kabir Hospital is an outstanding medical centre

and a medical school from which many very good young doctors have graduated, Eklof said. Fifty new doctors are expected to graduate each year from the medical school in the coming years.

Initially, through the co-operation of Dr Abdul Mohsin Abdul Razaq of KU and Lund University of Sweden, modern medical systems based on international standards were introduced.

Machines
The hospital has installed new shock wave machines to crush kidney stones and eliminate the need for surgery. Five to six patients are treated daily by this method, Eklof said.

He added that during 1980, three Swedish doctors were working at KU and in 1985 the number had increased to 33. Presently, there are 17 Swedish doctors working in Kuwait, he said.

Nutrition week begins today

THE assistant undersecretary for drugs and medical equipment Ibrahim Al Mudaf, at the Ministry of Public Health, will open the first nutrition week today.

The event was organised by the Nutrition and Food Services Department of Mubarak Al Kabir Hospital and is intended to discuss and recommend methods of offering better food services in Kuwait.

Professors from the Kuwait University Faculty of Medicine and specialists from the Ministry of Public Health and World Health Organisation (WHO) will participate.

Activities will include lectures and seminars on nutrition, and health food products will be exhibited.

Kuwait informs UN committee of donation

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 25, (KUNA): Kuwait has informed the administrative and budgetary committee of the UN General Assembly that it will make a voluntary contribution of \$1 million in goods and services to the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer group (UNIMOG).

Addressing the committee as it debated at the financing of UNIMOG, Kuwaiti Representative Zaid Monayir said Wednesday the Kuwaiti contribution is in addition to its assessed contribution to the group.

Cameras installed on highways

AL RAI AL AAM newspaper has quoted reliable sources at the General Traffic Department as saying that special cameras have been mounted on highway ramps and at major road interchanges as part of the new traffic control system.

The cameras, the sources added, will be activated as soon as speeding cars run a red light and will pick up the plate number and other identification features and transmit them to the department's computer monitors for "necessary penal action."

BAHRAIN DIGEST

50 years of association

YOUSSEF Mahmood Husain Co. YMH, a leading pharmaceutical group in Bahrain, will celebrate 50 years of business association with one of its major principals, the American Company Parke-Davis (Warner Lambert Co.) with a reception at the Holiday Inn today.

YMH, also one of the oldest pharmaceutical companies in the island, has been the sole distributor and agent for Parke-Davis pharmaceutical products in Bahrain since 1938.

Speaking to the Arab Times, Mukhtar Bager, a YMH executive said that the company has been playing an important and active role in providing Bahrain's major medical products and equipment over the years.

"Our company played a major role, particularly before and after World War II when Bahrain had limited medical resources, by importing medical goods in large numbers. In this way we helped to relieve the suffering of the sick people. We feel proud of our services to the country."

He said the company works in close association with the ministries of Health and Education.

YMH started operating in 1935. Today the company boasts of four divisions: medical equipment, pharmaceutical, consumer and educational aids.

Attending the reception from Parke-Davis will be its regional president, marketing, finance and personnel directors and the area manager. A host of leading businessmen and dignitaries will also attend.

French chef at hotel

CHEF Pierre-Yves Carlo, reputed to be one of the most important of the new generation of French master chefs, will display his exquisite culinary talents at the Hilton Hotel from Saturday until Dec 8 at the hotel's Grill restaurant.

Carlo, who is also the chef and owner of the famous Relais de Chateaux Ombrament in France, will be cooking daily in the open kitchen of the Grill. The famous chef is being flown in especially to celebrate the French Food Festival at the Hilton.

A number of French events have also been planned during the festival.

Maid sentenced in death of newborn baby

THE Criminal Court sentenced a Sri Lankan maid identified as Diwali to six months rigorous imprisonment to be followed by deportation for unintentionally killing her newborn baby.

The court was told that the maid came to Kuwait in October 87 to work for a Kuwaiti family in the Dhaher area. She was married in Sri Lanka and was two months pregnant through marriage prior to coming to Kuwait.

The maid delivered her baby in her room in May 1988. She covered the baby with her dress, but the sleeves of the dress got entangled around the neck of the child causing death through suffocation.

Supported
Her employer discovered the accident and notified the police.

Medical reports showed that death was caused by asphyxia. Medical examination supported the plea that death was accidental.

Eldest son of founder of Saudi Arabia dies at age 80

RIYADH, Nov 25, (Agencies): The eldest surviving son of the founder of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia died today.

A royal announcement, read on Riyadh Radio, said 80-year-old Prince Mohammed Ibn Abdulaziz Ibn Saud will be buried in the Saudi capital on Saturday.

United

His father, King Abdulaziz Ibn Saud, united the Hijaz and Najd areas in 1932 to form what is now Saudi Arabia.

King Fahd, who has been on a tour of Saudi Arabia since last April, is expected to return to Riyadh later today to attend the funeral of his half-brother.

In a statement issued here today, the Royal Court said funeral prayers will be offered at King Abdulaziz Mosque here tomorrow.

Institute gives hope to the blind

By Yakub Razzaque

BAHRAIN is proud of its long and cherished tradition of helping its poor and underprivileged members of society.

In spite of its small size and limited resources, the island has been playing an important role in providing in both cash and other aid for the welfare and rehabilitation of its economically and physically handicapped citizens.

Social work in Bahrain rests on a high pedestal and is given top priority by a large number of organisations, commercial firms and individuals.

Today, several social and charitable organisations specialise in different areas depending on the needs of the people concerned.

Worthy
The Al Noor Institute for the Blind in Muharraq, has contributed in no small measure to a worthy cause. The institute was started in June 1973 by a young Bahraini woman under the supervision of the Ministry of Education.

Ever since then, Parveen Kazrooni, as director, has been at the helm of the bastion of hope for the blind and managed with determination and foresight to make Al Noor renowned for its pioneering work for the blind, not only in Bahrain, but also throughout the Arab world.

The institution, which officially opened in 1974, boasts of an excellent modern education and rehabilitation centre.

Project
Asked what attracted her to social work and in particular Al Noor Institute, Kazrooni said she did not hesitate in accepting the challenge of her life.

"I was working for the Ministry of Education. Then one day, unexpectedly, I was asked if I would be interested to run a project for the blind. I accepted it as part of my job initially. Soon afterwards I began to love the job and it has now become a part of my life."

Man tries to commit suicide

A MAN employed at the Civil Defence Department at the Ministry of Interior attempted to commit suicide at his work place last week, according to Al Rai Al Aam newspaper.

It added that the man asked for a necktie from his colleague. He went into a room and after tying the necktie to the ceiling fan tried to hang himself.

Sounds
Colleagues who heard sounds coming from the room rushed in and took him to the Farwaniya Hospital where he was treated and saved.

Subsequently, he was transferred to the psychological hospital. Authoritative sources at the hospital said that the patient is suffering from serious psychological problems.

Man sentenced in boy's death

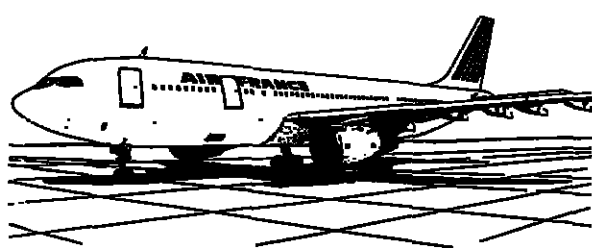
KUWAIT'S Criminal Court sentenced a man to three years in jail on the charge of unintentionally causing the death of a youth, according to a local daily.

The court was told that while the defendant was walking with a woman at the Al Dhaher area, the victim and a group of his friends kept on teasing them.

The accused claimed that he repeatedly asked boys to stop the harassment, but in vain.

Finally, he caught the victim, a 12-year-old boy, and beat him. There was no intention to cause his death, he added.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

No people are ever as divided as those of the same blood — Mavis Gallant, Canadian writer (1922 —).

Ethiopia reduces farm controls

By Rory Channing

ADDIS ABABA, (Reuters): Marxist Ethiopia, long plagued by drought and famine, has set out to wean itself off foreign food handouts.

The policy-making Central Committee of the Workers Party of Ethiopia (WPE) this month set the nation the goal of growing enough grain to feed itself by 1995.

Western donors, whose aid will prove vital in meeting the challenge, are impressed by the authorities' resolve.

"They mean it," declared Benno Haffner, the head of the European Economic Community (EEC) delegation in Addis Ababa.

"We have the impression here, not only the impression — the conviction, there's a lot at stake," he told Reuters in a recent interview.

Last December, after years of dialogue with the EEC and the World Bank which had tied future aid to changes in agricultural policy, the government announced modest farm reforms which give the free market a bigger role.

Reforms

The reforms included producer price increases, subject to annual review, of nine per cent for nine grain and oilseed crops.

But more importantly, say donors, it gave the largely peasant farmers more leeway to sell their crops to buyers other than the state Agricultural Marketing Corporation (AMC), gave full legal rein to the private grain trade and removed barriers halting the movement of produce from areas of surplus to regions unable to grow enough for their own needs.

"There were literally hundreds, some say thousands, of roadblocks. We have it on good authority that there are now just 11 checkpoints left in the country," noted Jim Moran, an EEC farm expert.

Active

Despite a ban on private trade in several regions prior to the reforms a few thousand farmers and, if only in name, merchants already held licences elsewhere.

"But many haven't been active since they were obliged to sell enormous amounts to the AMC at what they considered to be non-profitable prices," he said.

Distortions in the market were inevitable, according to the latest study by US aid which showed

the prices that the AMC paid peasants for cereals generally averaged half or less of urban free market prices in the years 1979/80 through 1982/83, prior to the great famine in 1984/85.

Although prices paid to producers were artificially low, those which consumers in the towns and cities had to pay were unrealistically high, Moran noted.

In one of the world's poorest countries, with per capita income of about \$130, prospective traders must lodge up to 20,000 birr (\$10,000) as a deposit for a licence.

Yet, Moran said, around 400 new licences had been issued and many more applications were being processed.

Satisfied

Satisfied with what Haffner called "moves in the right direction," the EEC this month finalized a 100 million ECU (\$125 million) five-year aid package for Ethiopian farming, on which 87 per cent of the country's 45 million people rely for a livelihood.

"Our target is the small farmer, the peasant," he declared. The World Bank last month announced an \$85 million soft loan for Ethiopia, its first funding for farming in the country in eight years.

Resources in both cases will be used mainly to provide fertiliser and other inputs, and conservation programmes that include soil binding and reforestation.

Haffner expects the reforms could trigger the release of substantial further funds from donors, including the African Development Bank and Ethiopia's former colonial master Italy, bringing the total to \$700 million in coming years.

Successful

Donors say it is still early to judge how successful the reforms have proved, as incentives to boost food production, which this year is expected to benefit anyway from bumper rains.

Harvesting of crops is under way and is expected to continue into January.

"We won't know for a few months what the effects will be in terms of supplies to the free market, price consequences and so on," said Moran.

"But if the trends are anything like the preliminary indications, and taking into account we've got a good crop coming in, you might find by early next year people are paying less for their grain and farmers are better off," he added.

Bush appointees are pragmatists

By Donald M. Rothberg

WASHINGTON, (AP): The emerging Bush administration includes prominent holdovers from Ronald Reagan's presidency, but with one clear and important difference: the new team is tilted far more toward pragmatists than ideologues.

Bush filled three more key positions Monday and his choices were sure to set off cries of anguish from the right.

Dick Thornburgh will remain attorney general and Lauro Cavazos will stay on as education secretary. Both men were latecomers to the Reagan administration and both replaced leading ideologues, Edwin Meese III and William Bennett.

The third Bush choice was Richard Darman to serve as director of the Office of Management and Budget.

"He's put together an eastern establishment Republican administration," said conservative activist Richard Viguerie. "That's discouraging."

High-profile jobs in the next administration are rapidly being filled, and only one Bush choice has drawn applause from conservatives — Governor Sununu of New Hampshire who will serve as White House chief of staff.

The voting machines had hardly stopped humming with Bush's 40-state election day victory when the president-elect made the most obvious choice for his new administration — friend, adviser and campaign chairman James Baker III to succeed George Shultz as secretary of state.

During his tenure as White House chief of staff Baker earned a reputation as a quintessential pragmatist, a savvy insider who repeatedly gave low priority to the initiatives of the more ideological elements in the Reagan administration. Calls on Reagan to fire Baker were always sure to be brushed aside by conservative gatekeepers.

Baker's deputy was Darman. Quick to follow the Baker selection was that of another old Bush friend and adviser, Nicholas Brady. He will remain treasury secretary.

In fact, another characteristic of the Bush appointees is how many have long-standing ties to the president-elect.

When Ronald Reagan was filling out his administration eight years ago, he was meeting many of the top officials for the first time. The same was true of Democrat Jimmy Carter in 1976.

Not so with Bush. His relationships with the people he has appointed go back many years.

That should not be surprising, considering the years Bush has served in government and party posts. The long resume he touted during the presidential campaign put him in close contact with other up-and-coming Republicans.

No one ever described Bush as an ideologue and, clearly, the people he feels most comfortable with are as pragmatic as he.

It's always tough to get the jump on a new president and name his cabinet for him. But so far there have been no big surprises, no choices from other than the names subject to the most speculation.

99.8 per cent of all defendants facing criminal charges are convicted

By Eric Talmadge

KOBE, Japan, (AP): Japan's criminal justice system is under fire for harsh treatment of suspected law breakers and rare acquittals of people brought to trial.

Justice Ministry figures show that 99.8 per cent of all defendants facing criminal charges are convicted, although not necessarily on all charges brought by the prosecution.

From the prosecutors' point of view, the high success level in the courts is a source of pride and is cited as evidence of the efficiency of law enforcement in Japan.

Confessions

"Very few people are found innocent here because in our system we only try those we believe we can convict," said a Justice Ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

But the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, which groups the nation's lawyers, has long argued that the conviction rate actually symbolizes a legal system so out of balance that it violates international human rights covenants.

The treatment, they argue, includes physical and mental torture, round-the-clock surveillance and inordinately long periods of interrogation.

"When they're finished with you you couldn't tell the top of my head from the side," said Yoshihito Umeda, who spent nearly 19 years in prison for a murder-robbery committed in 1950.

Umeda told the symposium that police led him through the confession, telling him what to

Japan's legal system under scrutiny

In a statement on Nov 4, the bar federation argued: "There are several ways to interpret the (conviction) statistic, but the overemphasis on confessions, the violation of the rights of the accused and the restriction of the accused's access to legal counsel can be suspected."

Speakers at a recent Bar Federation symposium in Kobe, western Japan, pointed to the post-arrest treatment of suspects not yet formally charged as a major source of human rights abuse.

The treatment, they argue, includes physical and mental torture, round-the-clock surveillance and inordinately long periods of interrogation.

"When they're finished with you you couldn't tell the top of my head from the side," said Yoshihito Umeda, who spent nearly 19 years in prison for a murder-robbery committed in 1950.

Umeda told the symposium that police led him through the confession, telling him what to

say he had done, kicking and punching him for days until his statement matched their conclusions.

Following several appeals, Umeda's name was cleared by the supreme court in 1986 due to discrepancies in his confession.

Cleared

In February this year, a woman filed a suit against the government after she was forced to disrobe before policemen and submit to a urine test while being detained for driving without a licence.

Local police have defended the test, used to check for traces of illegal drug use, but the woman claimed the police had no right to test her simply because she was under their custody.

"There is no assumption of innocence," attorney Takashi Mikami said at the symposium. "Japanese judges find it easy to find the accused guilty, but it takes courage for a judge to hand down a verdict of innocent."

The bar federation claims the

excesses leading to false confessions are fostered, in part, by the "dayo kangoku" system, which allows arrested suspects to be detained under police control.

The police detention cells are substitutes for government-run detention centres. Two bills that would institutionalize the system, accepted on a temporary basis 80 years ago, are now before the parliament.

Detention

"This system, unique to Japan, where substitute jailhouses are used to obtain confessions upon which many criminal cases are based, is the source of numerous human rights violations," said human rights advocate and lawyer Futaba Igarashi.

Igarashi said that in the substitute jail cells, known as "bird-cages," police decide when suspects can eat, drink or go to the toilet. About 90 per cent of the suspects detained by police end up in such cells, according to the federation.

In most cases, warrants to arrest and detain a suspect must be obtained from a court, but, the bar federation point out, only 0.45 per cent of the requests for detention were denied in 1984, the most recent year for which statistics are available.

Charges

A suspect may be detained before formal charges are filed for up to 23 days. That period is often extended, however, because police can re-arrest suspects on unrelated charges to continue their questioning.

Lawyers have protested this practice but have found only weak support for their cause.

"The detainees can't read newspapers, listen to the radio, make telephone calls or, with a few exceptions, write letters," Igarashi said. "When they deny police accusations, they aren't allowed to see their families and in some cases are only allowed to see their lawyer for three 15-minute visits over the 23 days."

Government-appointed lawyers

are not provided to the accused during detention, though such counsel is available for the trial.

Release on bail is not permitted until formal charges are pressed. Only about 27 per cent of those charged with crimes in 1984 were released pending trial, and of them, 60 per cent posted bail of over 1 million yen (about \$7,600), according to the bar federation.

Detainees awaiting trial are either kept in the police jail or moved to a formal detention centre following police and court consultation.

Jun Kurata, assistant chief of the National Police Agency's General Affairs Division, denied many of Igarashi's charges saying detainees in substitute jailhouses are overseen by police guards, not investigators.

Kurata said he was unaware of any recent cases of police brutality during questioning and said detainees are allowed to read newspapers if they so request.

He said phone calls are restricted and mail is screened, but that the same restrictions are observed in regular detention centres.

By Soil Sussman

TORONTO, (AP): For someone with a reputation as a conciliator, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney certainly loves a good fight.

He likes to portray himself as a statesman and Canada's most competent leader, but he thrives on old-fashioned politicking.

Such qualities put Mulroney in good stead in Monday's election, as his Progressive Conservative Party won a House of Commons majority, necessary to save the controversial free trade pact with the United States.

It was the first time since 1953 that a Canadian leader was able to put together consecutive majority governments. But it was a slimmer margin than in 1984, when Mulroney led the Conservatives to one of the most impressive landslide in Canadian history.

The 49-year-old prime minister comes from a working class family in Baie-Comeau, on the north shore of Quebec's St. Lawrence. A Roman Catholic, he is married and has four children.

Ambitious

Mulroney was ambitious and built a successful legal and corporate career in Montreal. He first tried for the Conservative Party leadership in 1976 but was not successful until 1983. He also was first elected to the House of Commons that year.

Mulroney is the first bilingual native of Quebec to lead his party, and he has used that fact skillfully in expanding the conservatives' base in that critical, largely French-speaking province.

Support for cronies was charged during his first years in office, dropping his popularity drastically in the public opinion polls. Eight cabinet ministers resigned in separate incidents, but by

Mulroney thrives on old-fashioned politicking



BRIAN MULRONEY

the time he called the election Oct 1 Mulroney had distanced himself from the controversies and was able to point to an experienced management team.

He planned to stage the campaign on competency and the prosperity that lasted through

for a time appeared to be sinking Mulroney. He emerged from the protective cover of statesman to stage a hard, direct fight.

By the campaigns' closing days, Mulroney was exuberantly telling crowds at his rallies that they had a choice between opposition Liberal Party "John (Turner) the ripper or Brian the builder."

He described the opponents of the trade agreement he signed last January with President Ronald Reagan as jittery, negative defenders of past traditions that could not survive in the modern world.

Builder

Mulroney, by contrast, saw himself as a "nation builder," ready to lead a competent Canada into full competition with the much larger and more powerful United States.

The phrase surfaced in the last of six hours of debate last month, when Turner accused the prime minister of selling out Canada with the free trade agreement.

Mulroney replied that he carried through on the agreement to build Canada, just as his father had gone to north-western Quebec 55 years ago where he and hundreds of other labourers built a small town.

"I believe that in my own modest way, I am nation-building because I believe this benefits Canada, and I love Canada," the prime minister said.

Although Turner was widely believed to be the winner of the debate, the momentum did not carry through to the end of the campaign.

By Carol J. Williams

HAMBURG, West Germany, (AP): In the garish apartments of what used to be the Eros-Centre cabaret and bordello, indigent immigrants from Eastern Europe trundle along the hallways in kerchiefs and worn leather caps.

On Grosse Freiheit, the renowned row of rowdy nightclubs that launched rock luminaries like the Beatles and Jimi Hendrix, burned-out bulbs and faulty neon signs advertise the creeping neglect that afflicts one of the world's most famous red-light districts.

Along this glitzy strand once dubbed "the most sinful mile in the world," the clubs and pubs and peep-shows hanging on to life through a dwindling clientele furnished with tattered banquettes and wobbly tables and darkened by windows smudged with ages of tobacco smoke.

Beset by AIDS fears, unemployment and a booming X-rated video market, Hamburg's famed Sankt Pauli district has fallen on the hardest times of its colourful 150-year history.

Welcome

In the early 19th century, the no-man's land between the rival ports of Hamburg and Altona welcomed the boisterous sailors and riggers denied a place to play in the fashionable city centres.

But the image of outrage worn for years with pride has decayed leaving Sankt Pauli in much the same stage of decline as New York's 42nd street and other entertainment quarters past their prime.

Today the traces of a long life of excess appear like wrinkles on a face that has not aged gracefully.

Blinking coloured lights from the surviving sex shops and discos illuminate the litter and grime as clearly as the prostitutes bundled in pastel-coloured skirts against the brisk November winds off the Elbe River.

Estimated to number about 2,000, or half the number who plied their trade here a generation ago, the women take languid

Hamburg's 'sinful mile' tamed by AIDS, economic woes

draws off cigarettes or sip coffee from foam cups while surveying a motorized stream of both carousers and the curious.

"In the last years, because of unemployment and AIDS and a general reduction in the money available for this kind of entertainment, Sankt Pauli has seen a progressive decline and is unlikely to recover from it," said Hans Dittrich, chief of the Davidweiche police station that stands guard at Spielbodenplatz (Fun-house Square).

In some ways Sankt Pauli's loss has been Hamburg's gain, as the departure of many prostitutes and purveyors of pornography has made way for more legitimate business and resulted in a decrease in assaults, murders and other serious crimes, Dittrich contends.

"We still have 10 or 12 purse-snatchings or unarmed assaults each month, but the trend has been one of decline," the police official told the Associated Press. "I would characterize Sankt Pauli now as one of the safer areas of the city. Tourists have no need to fear leaving their cars here and walking around for a look at what used to be unique."

Reputation

The region's reputation now draws more gawkers than stalkers, a trend that frustrates the economy of Sankt Pauli while maintaining its bustling appearance by night.

Veterans of vice complain that the area with its famed Reeperbahn strip survives today merely as a tourist attraction.

"Why would a guy want to sit in a cabaret and have to pay hundreds of marks to drink champagne when he can rent the same thing on a video cassette and watch it at home?" asks Edwin Ross, who for 33 years has painted nude murals and signboards for Sankt Pauli's sex theatres. "The only people here now are first-time visitors who

remember a Reeperbahn that no longer exists."

"It's unfortunate we cannot stay open at night when the women who come here out of curiosity are looking into our windows," Eva-Maria Roepke, operator of a designer lingerie and cosmetics store on the Reeperbahn, told the AP.

Burdens

German law adds to the economic burdens of business owners in Sankt Pauli, as sales outlets nationwide must close by 6:30 pm on weekdays and can open for only a few hours on Saturday morning.

Roepke's show has been hard-hit by the closure of Eros-Centre,

one of the region's two largest houses of prostitution.

"There used to be 600 girls around the corner, but now there are only immigrants who have no money to spend on goods like these," she lamented, gesturing toward the skimpy and shimmering nightclothes adorning the walls.

Eros-Centre owner Wilhelm Bartels told the magazine Der Spiegel when he shuttered the sprawling sex shop last year that "AIDS has finished off Sankt Pauli."

While the health threat has cut deeply into the volume of sex trade in the region, the economy has followed with a devastating finishing blow.

Habre closes long chapter of rebellion

By Abakar Assidikh

N'DJAMENA, (Reuters): President Hissene Habre has closed a chapter on Chad's 23 years of civil war by persuading one of his last and fiercest enemies to return from exile.

Acheikh Ibn Omar was given a warm welcome in N'Djamena by Foreign Minister Gouara Llassou on Sunday. A day earlier he signed a ceasefire in the Iraqi capital Baghdad.

The rebel leader said on his arrival the two sides were determined to turn a page in history. "It is quite natural that we should be able to return some day to our country after so many divisions," he added.

Chad, which stretches from the centre of the Sahara desert to the heart of equatorial Africa, became independent from France in 1960 and has been riven since 1965 by a tangle of armed conflicts.

Fight

It began as a fight between the Muslim Arab north and the black south but centred in recent years on rivalries among northern leaders including Habre, former President Goukouni Oueddei and Acheikh.

Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi backed first one then another of the Chadian rivals while laying claim to a strip of territory on the northern border where the last major fighting took place a year ago.

France became deeply involved with its troops defending Habre's hold on the capital after he fell out with Libya and emerged as a pro-Western figure.

Acheikh followed Goukouni as Khaddafi protege and the exiled leader of GUNT — the transitional government of national unity.

Pinochet becomes political outcast

By Tom Harvey

SANTIAGO, (UPI): Gen. Augusto Pinochet, who is in a slow-motion fade-out from the Chilean presidency after losing a national plebiscite last month, has become a political outcast in the country he has run with an iron fist for 15 years.

In a peculiar twist, the constitution allows Pinochet to remain president until his term ends in March 1990, giving "Chile the only dictator in the world with a fixed term," as opposition Socialist leader Osvaldo Puccio put it recently.

Nevertheless, significant political and military developments are pushing the general in new directions a month after the Oct 5 election in which voters turned down his request for an eight-year extension in office.

Conservative parties that supported him last month have told Pinochet publicly, though politely, to stay out of the 1990 presidential election.

Changes

Significant changes have occurred in the Army, which exempted only Pinochet as its chief in a reshuffle of the top command Tuesday. Thirteen generals were retired.

The overhaul removed many of Pinochet's top commanders, who had filled government posts and were actively involved in his discredited campaign.

The changes, according to several Chileans who follow internal military politics, place into command officers who were not politically active. The new leaders take the traditional view that the Army's function is to protect the nation from outside aggression and eschew deep involvement in politics.

With the shift, the Army appears to be falling in line with the Navy, where top admirals have retired, and the Air Force and National Police, whose representatives have resigned from Pinochet's cabinet.

Although Pinochet has been forced to accept an altered military, he has done nothing to take into account the demands of the opposition forces that mounted the campaign to defeat him in the election.

Forced

Opponents have called for changes in the 1980 constitution written by the military, which entrenches its role and allows Pinochet, 72, to remain as Army commander until 1997.

Pinochet, however, has vowed to serve out his term and has indicated that the constitution will not be changed.

Patricio Aylwin, head of the coalition that defeated Pinochet in the plebiscite, said Chileans who voted for change are becoming increasingly frustrated with Pinochet's intransigent attitude toward the opposition.

The government "cannot continue its policies as if nothing has happened," Aylwin said.

Foes

The opposition leader said Pinochet's foes are prepared to apply new pressure and — with the general weakened — there are prospects for a compromise.

Pinochet desperately wants to stay in office and complete some economic reforms, including selling some state-owned companies and making the Central Bank independent of the government.

To achieve those goals, Pinochet may be eased toward open possible constitutional reforms.

Just as it is

Record price expected for Picasso's 'Harlequin'

Art world in grip of money fever again

By Brian James

THE astounding price, £13.7 million, bid in New York for Pablo Picasso's blue-period "Maternite" set a record for a 20th-century work of art. But it will not survive the month. For on November 28, another Picasso, "Harlequin", comes up at Christie's in London.

And this is a more interesting work by far. From a later period, when Picasso drew inspiration from the circus, it was his first work taken up by a private collector, and was subsequently impounded by the Nazis on the grounds of its "degradation".

It was not the painting's fascinating history that made a Christie's man enthuse last week. "It may be the scale of all time" — but its potential, measured in noughts.

For the international art world is gripped by a fever that translates in any language as "Never mind how it looks on the wall, how will it hang in the books?"

At the start of this month a Christie's expert declared the "Harlequin" to be "the most exciting thing" since Van Gogh's "Irises" — so exciting, indeed, that it might "even make £10 million".

Bold forecasting, if you look back at Picasso's previous highest price, which was £3.6 million. But how well he knew his marketplace was made clear within days when another Picasso, "Birdcage", went for £8.6 million.

Predictions
But then art room experts have had a solid year now of seeing their most daring predictions overtaken by the events they stage-manage. It is not long since Lord Gower, the chairman of Sotheby's, declared: "One day I shall wake up to find that a single painting has made £20 million" — three times the existing record.

Within days, Van Gogh's "Sunflowers" had changed hands for £24.75 million. And a mere eight months later, while most of the world's richest people were still counting their losses from the great stock-market



Picasso's 'Maternite' sold for £13.7 million

crash, another Van Gogh, "Irises", raised the ante to £30.2 million.

It is now believed that the art boom was not a part of, but an alternative to, the scramble for stocks and shares: an escape ladder from already-shaking towers of equity fortunes. Which explains, in the words of one frequent of the great auction rooms, why "there are new people about, a clique, a sort of glitterati ... there to be seen, certainly ... but also not afraid to bid."

The greatest pieces go mostly to the unseen. The "Maternite" went to an unnamed South American bidder (knowledgeable observers hint at the widow of an Argentinian cement millionaire).

At the same New York sale other records were set for a

Degas bronze, Bonnard, Sisley, Fantin-Latour and Vuillard — all to unknown private buyers.

Another man's explanation for Picasso's part in the sale heat was: "I suspect the Japanese have discovered that Pablo didn't do pictures of old priests in robes." By this he meant that Japanese buyers, persistent players in the market at the highest level but notoriously uneasy with Old Masters and their Biblical references, had latched on to the cross-cultural work of the great innovator.

But it is far from being all about Picasso and Van Gogh. No painter of any style or any century seems excluded from the stampede.

Jasper Johns, the living American, more than doubled his previous record price from £1.8 million to £4 million in one

day last week, and then to £10 million the next.

Other artists — who, according to legend, ought to be starving in garrets — can look on prices commanded by their own art-form and not only marvel ... but hope.

Which is good. Not necessarily quite so fine is the pressure on great collections to either sell or at least abandon all hope of fine-tuning collections. Britain's rattling collection boxes anytime a work of art may be sold abroad are evidence of the frail hold of public ownership on the national heritage.

Some private collectors are also being singled by the flames: painting are being brought under the hammer because owners who could afford the purchase now cannot manage the insurance premium.

Argue
Many art critics argue persuasively that, far from distorting values, these soaring bids actually create a proper distance between the great and the mundane, even within the body of work of one man: that after sales where his indifferent paintings provoked indifference, it is only these greatest works of Picasso that now achieve records.

Even the Japanese buying investment for the board rooms "seem to be on a budget now, and are exercising greater discernment," I was told.

Very possibly. But shortly after describing the prices achieved in London last year as "obscene", an American saleroom spokesman became markedly silent at the point where New York sales (£382 million) finally overtook London (£327 million) for a year's work with hammer and hype.

And looking upon the scene as the next great masterpiece is offered for sale, scenting the mood of avid covetousness among those bidding, it will be easily to wonder what some of those Old Masters would have made of the scene: El Greco, say, who sketched so dramatically "Driving the Money-Changers from the Temple".

By Peter James Spielmann

UNITED NATIONS (AP): Earnings from the sale of UN postage stamps fell two-thirds in the 1980s, a problem the UN Postal Agency director blames on trying to sell to a vanishing generation of collectors.

"Our base group of collectors started in the 1950s and it is dying, to put it bluntly," said UN Postal Administration head Giesela Grunewald.

Stamp sales are also hampered by the agency's reliance on political and social themes: "our subjects are much more political we cannot put out a puppy-dog or love stamp," she said.

One of the UN's best-selling issues, the 1954 Human Rights Day stamp, illustrates the marketing challenge the agency faces.

Disaster

The human rights stamp probably did not achieve its popularity due to its theme, but because it depicted a mother-and-child scene reminiscent of the Madonna and infant Jesus, and was issued in early December, just in time for use on Christmas cards.

While most political stamps are simply less interesting to collectors, some political issues repeat them.

In 1981, the General Assembly instructed the UN Postal Agency to issue a stamp proclaiming "the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people."

UN finds few takers for postage stamps

"The Palestinian stamp was an absolute disaster for the UN postal administration, from which it has not recovered. Many of the stamp dealers in the United States are Jewish," said Michael Lawrence, the editor and publisher of Linn's Stamp News, the authoritative guide for collectors.

"I think we answered 20,000 letters on that issue," said Mrs Grunewald. "There was a rumour that the UN was issuing a stamp to honour the PLO and that revenue from the stamp will be sent to Mr (Yasser) Arafat. It is very difficult to explain to the public the difference between the PLO and the Palestinian People."

Income from UN stamp sales goes into the general UN budget, reducing the assessment member nations pay. It does not go to the cause or agency pictured on the stamp.

UN stamp vary in their value to collectors — the 1954 human rights stamp, which had a face value of 3 cents, now sells for up to \$9.50. A three-stamp block in 1955 that honoured the UN's 10th anniversary had a face value of 15 cents now its value ranges from \$190 to \$320.

A recent audit of all UN agencies noted that net income of the UN Postal Administration declined from \$13.5

million in 1980 to \$4.5 million in 1987, and criticised the agency for lacking a marketing plan and leaving two of three marketing director's posts vacant.

Grunewald said a marketing plan will be in place by the end of the year.

The agency has been unable to hire people to fill marketing posts under the UN's general hiring freeze, but other employees have been performing most of those duties, she said.

"There is an inherent catch-22 (paradoxical) situation in trying to run a commercial enterprise in an organisation with bureaucratic restraints," she said. "It's not something that comes as a surprise to any of us, although it's sometimes very frustrating."

The real crisis, she said, is that stamp collecting, the hobby that has brought tens of millions of dollars into the coffers of the cash-poor United Nations, is in decline worldwide.

The late 1970s saw a boom in all sorts of collectibles due to a high inflation rate that cooled in the 1980s, she said. Sales of stamps, coins, gold, antiques and other tangible goods peaked in 1980 and tapered off

afterward.

In addition, said Grunewald, the UN Postal Administration received an extra lift that year because it opened a new postal centre in Vienna, joining the New York and Geneva offices.

The agency also began a series of flag stamps that year, and had other popular special issues that boosted sales in 1980.

A more ominous problem for the UN Postal Agency, said Grunewald, is that it is losing the elderly philatelists who began collecting the UN's politically oriented stamps in the 1950s.

Stamp collectors generally start the hobby as children, drop out in their teens and take it up again in their late 20s or 30s.

"It is not easy for us to find collectors at the young age because of our topics," which are strictly political, said Grunewald. Marketing surveys show political subjects are the least favoured by collectors, while stamps featuring butterflies and flowers are the most popular.

In all postal administrations, the question is "how can we get 6, 7, 8-year-olds to switch off the video and go to stamp collecting?" I have to tell you that I have not heard a convincing strategy yet," she said.

"Everybody in the trade and in the business who has children tells me their own children don't collect. My children don't collect. They aren't interested," said Grunewald.

Penny Black sells for record price

By Geoffrey Barker

AN UNIQUE Penny Black, probably the first postage stamp to pass through the mail, enticed collectors at Phillips' auction house for a remarkable £71,500 in the UK recently.

Its claim to fame was that on May 2, 1840 it was sent from London to Morpeth, a full four days before the world's first adhesive stamps were authorised for use.

"Our guess is that the sender went to a Post Office on May 1, the day of issue, and said: 'I've heard of these new stamps. Have you got any?' and later handed in his envelope-to-a clerk who hadn't noted his

dates properly," said Mr David Boyd, Phillips' stamp expert.

Some 169 million letters were posted in 1840 after Rowland Hill's reforms ended years of queuing in dismal candlelit post offices to have letters hand-stamped as paid.

From those dawn days of the modern Postal Service 68 million 1d blacks survive, worth on average between £20 and £80 according to condition.

What made the stamp even more unusual among so many was that its buyer oddly attached it to a pre-paid envelope, turned inside out.

This Mulready envelope (named after its designer, William Mulready) was also introduced to the public on

May 6, 1840 as part of the Rowland Hill reforms of the Post Office.

It was received in Morpeth by a man who turned it back out and, helping himself to its free stamp, sent it on its way to Carlisle on May 4, once again in advance of its official day of issue.

These extraordinary circumstances led to fierce bidding and to the London dealer, Michael Chipperfield, paying three times the estimated price. What Phillips called the letter's "minor crumpling" deterred no-one.

Another penny black earned £30,800, six times expectation. This was attached to a letter mailed in the Post Office much-loved by collectors, Wotton-



The earliest used stamp, an 1840 Penny Black which sold for £71,500.

under-Edge, Glos, where the eccentric Postmaster decided to produce a cancellation stamp different from any in the kingdom.

He took a file to the handsome Maltese Cross stamp officially issued and cut shading lines across it. This is now a prized catch among philatelists.

Satellite link-up on preservation of Islamic art

US experts fail to satisfy Middle East queries

By Jadranka Porter

AMERICAN manuscript preservation experts have expressed support for a proposed greater exchange of information and experts from the US and the Middle East.

They were speaking on Wednesday on a Worldnet programme about preserving Arabic and Islamic works of art. The programme was made possible through a satellite link-up between Washington and the Middle East.

Martha Smith, one of the experts, is the paper conservator of the Smithsonian Institution's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery exhibition of Arabic and the Islamic art work. She was accompanied by Scot Husby, a book-binding expert.

They were responding to questions by experts from Kuwait, Jordan, Tunisia and Bahrain.

Kuwaiti participants were

Wafa Al Sane of the Council of Arts, Culture and Letters, and Farid Abdal of Kuwait Municipality.

The more co-operation the better, said Smith. "It is a good idea to send people (from the US) over to demonstrate methods of preservation."

Impression
But the general impression was that the two experts themselves could benefit from a visit to the Middle East. They appeared unfamiliar with the conditions and conservation methods used in the Middle East.

Many of the questions posed by the Arab experts remained unanswered or the answers offered were incomplete. When the two specialists failed to discuss in any detail the methods and effect of fumigation on preservation of old manuscripts, the programme moderator exclaimed: "But that's a very basic question. Where would one turn for an

answer?"

He then got Smith to give the address of the Smithsonian Institution to which the Arab experts can refer.

The specialists also had little to say on deacidification of books, the preservation policy and the national preservation programme in the US.

It was not clear whether the choice of American panelists was wrong or whether they were just ill prepared for specific questions.

Authority
Husby was described in a leaflet with his biographical data, as an authority on the preservation of Islamic and Arabic books. But he was introduced in the programme as a book-binding expert and his answers were mainly based on his experience with Western books. There is certainly nothing in his biographical data to suggest that he is an expert on Islamic books. However, the two specialists did offer some

useful information.

Husby said that minimum standards for manuscript preservation are safe storage and use. He said that manuscripts should be stored in rooms with relatively constant temperature and humidity. The relative humidity should be about 50 per cent and the temperature should be about 18° Centigrade.

Smith said the best way to store books is to place them in boxes which should be laid on shelves horizontally. She added that the preservation effort should focus on keeping a manuscript looking the same as it is but it should be made stronger for use.

Both experts agreed that the general awareness in the US of the need for preservation is growing, but added that funds are not easily available.

Said Husby: "There is more interest in conservation of library materials than there is money to get the work done."

Value of holy relics under scrutiny

By Terry Leonard

ROME (AP): A tiny woman dressed in black and stooped with age dropped to her knees and gingerly began to crawl up her holy stairs, pausing at each step to pray or to kiss a rosary ouch to where Christ's blood supposedly fell.

The stairs, located across the street from Rome's St. John Lateran church, are among hundreds of relics and venerated objects in Italy linked to Jesus or saints that have inspired the faithful for centuries.

But these relics have come under new scrutiny in the alien media since the Roman Catholic church announced last month that scientists determined the shroud of Turin, perhaps the most famous of all, not be the burial cloth of Christ.

There is no proof, only tradition, to support claims the marvellous steps ascended to late's palace in occupied Jerusalem and that Jesus, ending from Roman whips, ad on the stone.

Still, the old woman's painful

are a cherished link and that the church can consider religious symbolism more important than questions of authenticity.

"Relics are the means, the physical means of rediscovering or keeping in touch with the history of the faith," said Monsignor Robert Sarno, an official with the Vatican's congregation for the causes of saints.

"It is a means of strengthening one's faith, which in essence is a closer relationship with God," he said in a recent interview.

After carbon-14 tests showed medieval weavers made the cloth in the holy shroud, Italian newspapers quickly noted the same method could date fragments from the true Cross, thorns from Christ's crown or blood from Naples' St. Januarius.

The newspapers pointed out that about 70 sanctuaries around the world claim to have drops of milk from the Virgin's breast, innumerable others lay claim to fragments of the Cross or the hair, fingernails or tears of Jesus, that there are at least 30 "genuine" nails from the Cross and several "genuine" veils of Veronica.

Church officials say there will be no "witch hunt" for false relics, no purge of reliquaries similar to that of dubious saints dropped from the calendar during the reign of Pope Paul VI.

However, Sarno says he sees no reason the church would not agree to such scientific tests on relics if the authenticity was seriously questioned.

"We have to rid ourselves of the idea that the church is afraid of science. There can be no contradiction between faith and science. Faith and science both come from God," he said.

Tests on the shroud, he said, demonstrate the church is not afraid of science.

There were special pressures to test the shroud. The mysterious origin of its faint, haunting image of a man who had been whipped, speared, crucified and crowned with thorns intrigued scientists and others outside the church.

Although some revered it as the burial cloth of Jesus, the church never recognised it as a relic. Instead it was considered a cherished object, one treated with respect because it could be linked to Christ.

Cardinal Anastasio Ballestrero, who as archbishop of

Turin is caretaker of the shroud, said last month he had no reason to doubt carbon-14 tests that indicate the cloth was made between 1260 and 1390 A.D.

But he said the shroud remained a powerful symbol. Both Ballestrero and other church officials point out that the other scientists determined that the shroud was not the work of an artist. And since the mystery of the creation of its image persists, church officials do not rule out it could still be the work of God.

Emphasizes

The point Ballestrero and others make over and over again is that the spiritual value to people like the devout old woman struggling on the stairs can outweigh historical questions about objects such as the shroud, the stairs, fragments of the Cross and the myriads of saintly relics.

Still, Sarno emphasizes that "there is a necessity" for historical verification of relics.

"A relic is an authentic, verifiable piece of history which has theological significance and spiritual meaning for the individual faithful," he said.

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Womack and Womack — making music from the heart

By Alex Molloy

IN THE cut-throat world of pop music, they are the most romantic couple. Two soulful stars who care more for each other than for any of the millions of dollars they have made.

Womack and Womack are well known as music's most loving husband and wife team, and what is more the only reason they became singing partners was because they wanted to be together all the time.

Cecil Womack admits: "Losing Linda would be like losing an arm. We became partners because we could not bear to be apart."

"It was the same for my mum and dad. They had been together since childhood and when he died a few years ago, mum was shattered. Seeing her grief for dad was one of the saddest times of my life."

"I knew Linda and I were compatible from the moment we met — she was nine and I was thirteen years old. Something about her really touched my heart and we have been married for 14 years now."

Linda, the daughter of the legendary soul singer Sam Cooke, adds: "Cecil is the one true love of my life."

But as well as being pop's most loving couple, the Womacks are fast becoming one of its busiest. Their new album *Conscience* looks all set to storm the charts just as their previous *Love Wars* did.

The album is the result of a journey back to their roots. Cecil explains: "My grandfather Thomas worked in the coalmines of Bluefield, Virginia, in the Blue Ridge Mountains."

"The miners used to sing in the mines. They sang about what they felt about how hard they were working and how low the money was."

"Soon my father and 12 uncles joined him in the coal pit. They would sing together by day and at night they sang in their own gospel group."

"My grandfather did not stop singing when he stopped working. He organised his own gospel group and toured the region."

"My father, Friendly Womack Sr, trained my four brothers and I to sing and we too joined the world of gospel music. I was singing in the group when I was just four years old."

"We went out on the road every weekend from my childhood to my teens. We worked with all kinds of people: Marvin Gaye, the Swan Silvertones, Joe Hinton and the Spirit of Memphis, Johnny Taylor, Solomon Burke, Della Reese, David Ruffin, Wilson Pickett, the Staple Singers, Lou Rawls and Aretha Franklin."

Out of all the people Cecil shared the stage with, there was one who would have a bigger impact on his life than anyone else. It was Sam Cooke, the father of his beloved Linda.

Cooke had long since left the world of gospel and become a huge singing star. But one day he got in touch with the Womacks and suggested they join him in Los Angeles. The five brothers drove to California, where Cecil and Linda first set eyes on each other.

Linda remembers: "From the first time we met Cecil said he would marry me when I grew up. I didn't believe him because he was already in a group, The Valentinos, and there was a queue of older, pretty girls wanting to meet him."

"I was just a kid, with no shape or anything, so I thought that he was just being polite. But as time went on I realised just how serious he was."

"I think we were destined for each other because we got on so well. My parents trusted him and he was allowed to chaperone me around. Little did they know they were actually encouraging the seeds

of love to grow."

As Cecil began to earn a reputation as a top class musician, playing with such legendary names as Jimi Hendrix, the Rolling Stones, the O'Jays and Stephanie Mills, Linda, then aged 14, was developing her own remarkable talent as a song-writer.

She says: "I would practise the piano and sing behind closed doors and write songs. One day I heard the Womack brothers discussing a forthcoming Wilson Pickett album and I offered Wilson one of my songs called 'I'm in Love'."

Pickett recorded the song, as did Aretha Franklin, and for both it went gold. Then Linda wrote A Woman's Gotta Have It, and she did it again; the record went gold for James Taylor and Cecil's brother Bobby Womack.

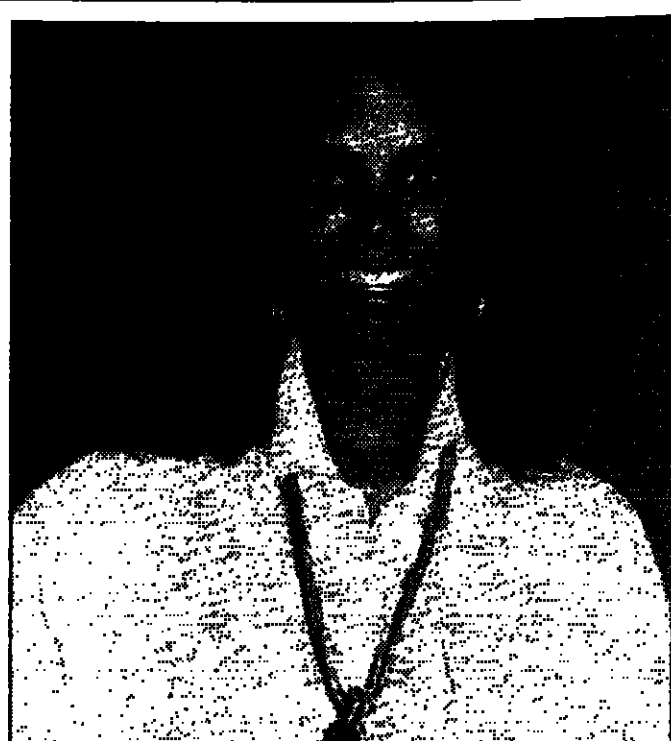
In 1975 Cecil decided he needed a rest after touring and the bust-up of his marriage to Mary Wells of the Supremes. He remembers: "I had been on the road and I decided to go and see my parents for a rest. Who should be there but Linda."

"I couldn't believe what a beautiful lady she had become. That night I said to her, 'Let's go to Las Vegas and get married.'"

"She thought I was crazy and was reluctant to rush into anything in case I changed my mind in a few days time. Of course I didn't, and a few days later we were married."

Since their wedding, it has been success all the way for Linda and Cecil. They spent 10 years as successful songwriters, penning hits for the likes of Millie Jackson and Teddy Pendergrass. Then in 1984 they released *Love Wars*. The album was hailed as the soul record of the year.

After the *Love Wars* success, the couple were asked why they had chosen to stay in the background for so long, to which Linda replied: "We wanted to take it slowly. We're very family oriented with the real side of the business, and there are very few



Linda Womack: she is the daughter of legendary soul singer Sam Cooke

true love songs to write about the lives of entertainment people — most of them suffered tragedies."

Linda's own tragedy happened when she was just 11. Her celebrated father was shot and killed by a call-girl. She reveals that it was this that pushed her into adulthood.

"It made me very serious about life, about what life does to you and the things that can happen."

"Cecil and I had always been so close, but we had to stop acting the way we used to — I couldn't sit on his lap any more. But I had a lot of traumatic things to work out on my own and I just wanted him to be happy."

Happiness is something that the two seem to have in excess nowadays. They live in an old farmhouse in Virginia with their six children and various farm animals that Cecil says are destined to live full lives — because the Womacks are vegetarians as well as being devout Jehovah's Witnesses.

Cecil says: "In 1985 we left Los Angeles behind us. We went to Virginia, where my father and grandfather came from, and bought a car."

"Then we drove along every small farm route, beginning at the Tennessee border looking for a home-space, a heritage space."

"We had decided to come back home and give the roots a chance to sprout."

"We went up to where my father used to work the coal mines and looked at the old, dusty, dirty mines. We went to see the people who still live there. They still sing. They are filled with talent, but they have no opportunity to get it heard."

"We even tracked down this guy who used to work with my father. We got his friends together, turned on a tape recorder and asked them to talk about their lives. We wanted them to put down whatever affected them, good or bad. And that is where the songs of *Conscience* came from."

"We wanted to show people that soul music and the blues are really deep-rooted. We come from west Virginia but we are not the only ones down there. We are just the only ones who hear. Our story is their story, our father's their fathers."

"My dad used to tell me how they would sing and chop. Every time they struck with an axe, they sang a note. That is what happened to their fathers, that is what happened to mine."

Womack and Womack surely are a couple who have everything. They have talent, big hearts, conscience, and more importantly... they have each other.

Bon Jovi hits top of US pop charts

NEW YORK (AP): Bon Jovi took their 'Bad Medicine' to the top of the single pop record charts in the United States. The hit disc hopped up from second spot a week ago.

'Desire' by U2 moved up one notch to second place on the Cash Box magazine chart, and the Escape Club's 'Wild, Wild West' slipped from number one to third.

Last week's number four hit, 'Kokomo' by the Beach Boys, dropped completely out of the top 10 list.

The week's only newcomer to the list was 'Walk on Water' by Eddie Money, up from 13th to 10th.

Ricky van Shelton held on to the top of the Cash Box magazine country-and-western singles chart with 'I'll Leave This World Loving You.' The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band's 'I've Been Lookin'' was second, and Reba McEntire's 'I Know How He Feels' was third.

Top Ten US

The top 10 pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (2) Bad Medicine — Bon Jovi (Mercury-Polygram)
2. (3) Desire — U2 (Island)
3. (1) Wild, Wild West — The Escape Club (Atlantic)
4. (5) Kissing a Fool — George Michael (Columbia)
5. (6) How Can I Fall — Breathe (A and M)
6. (7) Baby, I Love Your Way — Freebird Medley (Free Baby) — Will to Power (Epic)
7. (9) Look Away — Chicago (Reprise)
8. (10) I Don't Want Your Love — Duran Duran (Capitol)
9. (8) The Loco-Motion — Kylie Minogue (Geffen)
10. (13) Walk on Water — Eddie Money (Columbia)

The top 10 country-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (1) I'll Leave This World Loving You — Ricky van Shelton (Columbia)
2. (2) I've Been Lookin' —

The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band (Warner Brothers).

3. (4) I Know How He Feels — Reba McEntire (MCA).

4. (5) If You Ain't Lovin' (You Ain't Livin') — George Strait (MCA).

5. (3) Desperately — Don Williams (Capitol).

6. (8) I Wish That I Could Fall In Love Today — Barbara Mandrell (Capitol).

7. (10) A Tender Lie — Restless Heart (RCA).

8. (12) When You Say Nothing At All — Keith Whitley (RCA).

9. (15) Love Helps Those — Paul Overstreet (MTM).

10. (11) Chiseled in Stone — Vern Gosdin (Columbia).

Top Ten UK

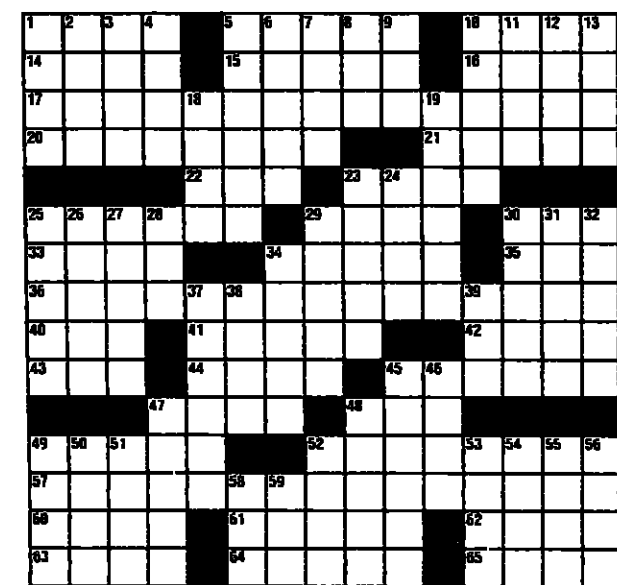
London (AP): American singer Robin Beck's 'First Time' remained atop the British Pop singles chart for the second week in a row and 'Need You Tonight' by INXS shot into second place from sixth.

'Girl You Know It's True' by Milli Vanilli slipped down one spot to No. 3, followed by 'Stand Up For Your Love Rights' by Yaz and 'Missing You' by Chris de Burgh.

This week's top 10 singles, as listed by the Price Music Ltd., the national music retail chain, with last week's placings in parentheses:

1. (1) First Time — Robin Beck (Mercury)
2. (6) Need You Tonight — INXS (Mercury)
3. (2) Girl You Know It's True — Milli Vanilli (Cool Temp)
4. (4) Stand Up For Your Love Rights — Yaz (Eig Life)
5. (7) Missing You — Chris de Burgh (A and M)
6. (11) Twist And Shout — Everybody Get Up — Salt-n-Pepa (London)
7. (3) She Makes My Day — Robert Palmer (EMI)
8. (12) He Ain't No Competition — Brother Beyond (Parlophone)
9. (9) Real Gone Kid — Deacon Blue (CBS)
10. (19) The Clairvoyant — Iron Maiden (EMI)

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 Composer
 - 5 European
 - 6 Yellow hue
 - 7 — the line
 - 8 Common street name
 - 9 Oahu welcome
 - 10 Choleric
 - 11 Gordie of hockey
 - 12 Novelist Hunter
 - 13 Ballet's
 - 14 Plutskaya
 - 15 Dispatched
 - 16 Egypt's first president
 - 17 Egg & la —
 - 18 Maestro
 - 19 Klemperer
 - 20 More appealing
 - 21 Grayish-white
 - 22 Irish dances
 - 23 Commercial
 - 24 Stops
 - 25 Liability's opposite
 - 26 Comb components
 - 27 Sample
 - 28 Word with couture or cuisine
 - 29 Sophisticated
 - 30 Word on a card
 - 31 — de France
 - 32 Softly
 - 33 Bread spread
 - 34 Cap for Monsieur
 - 35 Steeple
 - 36 occupants
 - 37 Glamorous fabric
 - 38 Sly as —
 - 39 Spanish Surrealist
 - 40 Incandescence
 - 41 Ship deserts
 - 42 — code
 - 43 Fed
 - 44 Slinger
 - 45 Pale
 - 46 Season
 - 47 In Paris

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

NEVA HABLA ASTO
ALAS ERROL STAR
POSTDATING SALE
ENTAIL TEATIMES
STAIR ASP
ACH HUS INTERN
ALOES THORN DIA
CLAPPER DAEMONS
AIT RAYED ROUGH
DEODAR PED OTO
FEW ATRIED
GAMBLERS TOOTLE
ESAU LETTERHEAD
REIN MALES ILL
TALK SLEET OLAN

GOREN BRIDGE

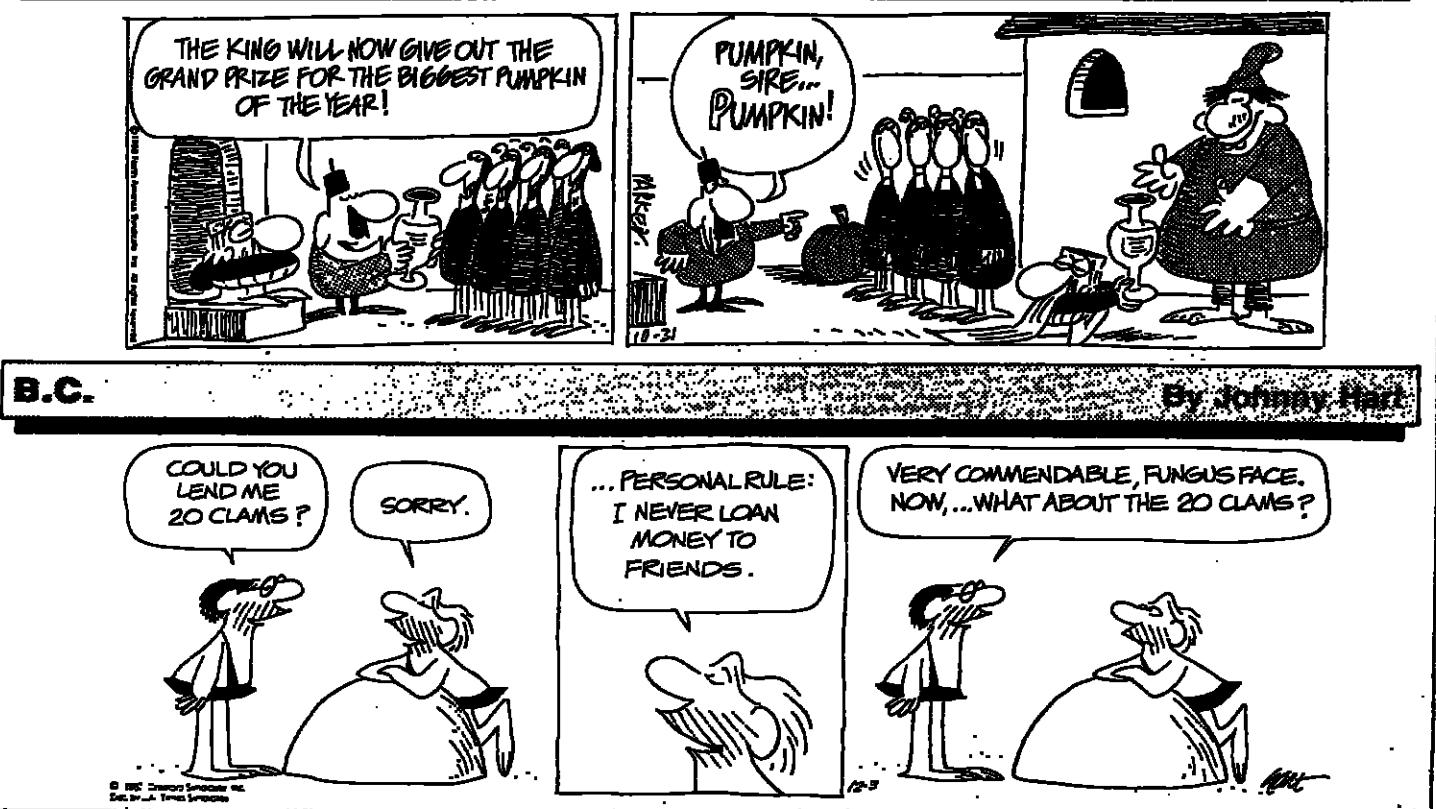
BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠83 ♥KQJ52 ♦AQJ3 ♣Q3
Partner opens the bidding with three spades. What action do you take?
- Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q8 ♥A8752 ♦A653 ♣93
Partner opens the bidding with three spades. What action do you take?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AK3 ♥84 ♦A94 ♣J8632
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♥ Pass
? What do you bid now?
- Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K93 ♥J72 ♦Q103 ♣AKQ4
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♦ 1 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠953 ♥Q2 ♦A8763 ♣K54
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♥ Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠7 ♥Q652 ♦Q954 ♣J652
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?



- "I don't think we're playing the roulette right—there should be only one bullet."
- "My fault—I shouldn't have said 'turn left' until we had actually reached the corner."
- "We had such a wonderful honeymoon, we decided to get married!"

THE WIZARD OF ID



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
Mars good influence will help you to get things done. You will be able to overcome a small but tricky problem. You should avoid all sorts of exaggeration. Be sincere.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
The Moon's better influence will help you to do what is right. You should make sure you meet your commitments. Do not do anything that would make your health suffer. Be observant.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)**
You will have plenty to do and should try to avoid any further commitments just now if you can. Mars good influence will help you to make up your mind. You should make sure your partner does not feel neglected. Be faithful.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
You are subject to mixed influences and should not do anything too unusual just now. You should be especially careful whilst driving. Do not trust to luck although you could well have little. Be less solemn.
- Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)**
Today you will have to avoid spending too much time window-shopping. There is a lot to do and you should avoid any waste of time. You must not try to do anything that is clearly quite beyond your resources. Be realistic.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**
There will be some positive factors but you must not try to ignore the restraining influences. You should delay dealing with a situation which will have to be dealt with sooner or later and will get harder the longer you leave it.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**
The Moon's favourable influence coupled with that of Mars will enable you to do something more positive. You will be more persuasive but remember that charm will not get you everywhere.
- Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19)**
The Moon's influence will help you to overcome a certain degree of indecisiveness. You should try to get a little more rest but that does not mean being lazy. Concentrate on essentials. Be courteous.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)**
You should not try to escape from the responsibility for your actions, instead face up to it. Make sure others also get the benefit and praise for what they have done.
- Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)**
You will feel better than of late and your morale will be higher. You will also have the courage of your convictions. You should not expect everyone to play your tune all the time. Be patient.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Arab banks hope to finance Iraq's post-war reconstruction

ABU DHABI, Nov 25, (Reuters): Arab commercial banks hope an Iraqi drive to rebuild from the ruins of war with Iran will inject life into their funds, idle during a regional recession.

"We expect a large role in financing projects in Iraq as (Iraqi) President Saddam Hussein has said he will give priority to Arabs," Adnan Al Hindi, secretary-general of the Arab Banking Union (ABU) told Reuters.

Hindi said Arab bankers at a three-day meeting in Abu Dhabi this week had decided to offer Iraq loans for reconstruction despite its foreign debt estimated at \$60 billion.

"Iraq has enormous financial and natural resources and is the second Arab state in terms of crude reserves," said Hindi, adding that it did not compare with debtor nations like Mexico and Argentina.

Opportunities
Deposits in Arab commercial banks rose to some \$175 billion in 1987, compared with \$155 billion in 1986, after investment opportunities declined because of a recession caused by low oil prices.

"These deposits have become costly (for banks) and need to be released... Arab banks now feel Iraq will be an important outlet for those funds," the head of the Beirut-based ABU said.

Hindi said that Arab bankers were optimistic that much of the Arab funds invested abroad during the eight-year Gulf war would return home when Iraq and Iran implemented a comprehensive peace.

Weak currency makes US competitive on world markets

French, Germans seek G-7 talks on dollar slide

PARIS, Nov 25, (UPI): France and West Germany want the chief economy officials of the seven major industrialised nations to meet to discuss the steep fall of the US dollar immediately after George Bush is inaugurated as America's president in January, French Finance Minister Pierre Bérégovoy said yesterday.

The dollar has declined 3 to 5 per cent against major international currencies since Bush was elected on Nov 8.

Hoovered
The US dollar dropped to a post-war low in Tokyo for the second straight day early Friday, going below 121 yen in early trading, and the Bank of Japan intervened in the market for the second straight day, dealers said.

Prices rebounded on small-lot selective buying by individual

investors on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

The Central Bank said the dollar opened 0.27 yen lower at 120.88 yen and hovered in the 120.75 to 120.90 yen range in the first hour of trading.

The dollar closed at a post-war low of 121.15 yen in Tokyo on Thursday.

Markets
US and foreign financial analysts attributed the decline to concern over the yawning US budget deficit and Bush's ability to tackle the problem with Congress without increasing taxes.

Monetary experts believe the lack of confidence in the dollar also is tied to speculation that the United States is seeking a lower dollar to improve its trade balance.

A weak dollar makes US more competitive on world markets,

but imports become more expensive, raising the concerns of industrialised nations that sell to American consumers.

Beregovoy said he and his German counterpart, Gerhard Stoltenberg, have been monitoring the international exchange markets with the aim of holding a Group of Seven meeting immediately after Bush becomes President on Jan 20.

The Group of Seven industrialised nations — France, West Germany, the United States, Canada, Japan, Great Britain and Italy — held its last meeting of finance ministers two months ago in West Berlin.

The greenback's sharp drop has prompted the Federal Reserve and major foreign banks to step in and buy billions of dollars in an effort to stabilise its value but the move has not had a

major effect. Economic analysts predict continued downward pressure on the dollar in the near future.

Yesterday the dollar plunged to 5.8710 francs — its lowest post-election value against the French currency.

In London, the dollar traded at \$1.83 for a British pound, compared to \$1.77 on election day.

Decline
"We anticipate a further decline of about 10 per cent in the dollar compared with the pound," said Roger Palmer, director of strategy at the London Investment Bank Kleinwort Benson Ltd.

"We would predict that next week, we might see a major attack on the dollar," Nigel Rendell of the stock-brokers James Capel and Com-

pany, was more conservative in his predictions.

"The dollar has fallen sharply since the elections, but I think it's now time for a period of cooling off," he said.

The British analysts said US interest rates will have to increase to fight the budget deficit. High interest rates make US bonds and securities more attractive to foreign buyers, helping boost the dollar's strength.

Peaked
The dollar rose through much of the early 1980s and peaked against other major currencies in February 1985.

Since then, the Reagan administration in co-operation with other Group of Seven nations, has worked to bring the dollar down. The currency has fallen about 50 per cent since its 1985 high.

World Business Summary

Bonn's Genscher seeks business deals from Iran

BONN, Nov 25, (Reuters): Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher flies to Tehran on Sunday seeking to ensure that West German companies reap the benefit from the years when Bonn maintained good ties with Iran while the rest of the West was hostile. "The Iranians have told us that they will give German firms preference because we remained strictly neutral during the Gulf war," one government source said on Thursday. Genscher will be accompanied by a large business delegation on his three-day visit which includes talks with the Speaker of parliament and armed forces commander Ali Akbar Rafsanjani, who has urged an end to frosty relations with the West. "Genscher will be encouraging the Iranian leadership in its course of opening up," a source close to the German foreign minister said. Since the UN-negotiated Gulf ceasefire, which Genscher was instrumental in persuading Tehran to accept, Iran has acted quickly to attract foreign expertise and goods to rebuild the country after eight years of war. The war effort swallowed a third of Iran's yearly oil income, and lasting peace with Iraq would free billions of dollars for much-needed imports. West Germany's export-oriented economy is vying for a major share of contracts, especially in construction and high technology.

Budget deficit projected higher

ABU DHABI, Nov 25, (Reuters): Oman's 1989 budget deficit could rise to 240 million riyals (\$625 million) because of weak oil prices, a senior Omani official was quoted as saying yesterday. Oman's Finance and Trade Ministry undersecretary, Mohammed Bin Mousa Al Yousuf, told the Dubai-based newspaper Al Bayan the government would try to limit the deficit by cutting spending and increasing corporate tax. But he ruled out imposing personal income tax in the Gulf sultanate, which depends on oil for 85 per cent of its state revenue. Yousuf said most oil-producing countries had prepared their budgets on an oil price of \$15 to 17 a barrel. However oil prices have declined to around \$10 a barrel in the second half of 1988 in a glutted world market. He estimated Oman's budget deficit next year at between 200 and 240 million riyals (\$500 and 625 million) — a rise of more than 20 per cent on the projected 1988 deficit of 194 million riyals (\$505 million). Oman, which is not a member of the OPEC organisation, produces around 600,000 barrels of oil per day.

Swedish minister proposes sweeping tax reforms

STOCKHOLM, Nov 25, (AP): Finance Minister Kjell-Olof Feldt today proposed sweeping tax reforms aimed at closing loopholes that he said have made Sweden a tax haven for the rich instead of a society of equals.

The proposal includes elimination of the national income tax for 90 per cent of the taxpayers and reducing it for the remainder; a five-fold increase in the capital gains tax; and changes in allowable deductions, Feldt told a news conference.

Sweden's tax system has been developed over the past six decades with the purpose of creating a society that has neither poverty nor great wealth. But

Feldt said the complexity of the system has allowed clever investors to write off their tax debts through deductible interest repayments and other strategies.

"Even though Sweden has higher tax than most other countries, a lot of people call Sweden a tax paradise because it is so easy to evade taxes," he said.

The outline of the tax reform programme is sketchy, and a commission was to draft legislation by next summer for possible enactment by the spring of 1990, the finance minister said.

Feldt spent the past week mustering support for the reform from his Social Democratic Party and from the LO, the

Swedish Trade Union Confederation, which is an umbrella group for most labour unions. The backing of the unions and the ruling party would ensure passage through parliament.

Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson said the programme fulfilled his campaign pledge to lower taxes as the first step in a general reform.

Carlsson's Social Democrats, re-elected in September, have controlled the Swedish government for 50 of the last 56 years. The party is credited with fashionable a tax-financed social welfare system that has been a model for the Western world.

LO chairman Stig Malm said

the plan had the conditional approval of his organisation, whose 2.3 million members compose one-fourth of the Swedish population.

Feldt said the programme was designed to eliminate "rewards for people who take bank loans at the expense of those who save money." Although the proposed raise of the capital gains tax from five per cent to about 30 per cent would cut into interest earned in savings accounts, some of the deductions changes would also have severe effects on loan-takers. Currently, loan-takers had been able to deduct 50 per cent of their interest payments, but that would be reduced to 30 per cent.

Share flotation oversubscribed five times

RIYADH, Nov 25, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia's fourth share flotation this year for a company to develop Islam's holiest city, Makkah, was oversubscribed more than five times, banking officials said yesterday.

A spokesman from the Riyadh-based Consulting Centre for Finance and Investment said that the 84.5 million riyals (\$22.5 million) issue for the Makkah Company for Real Estate and Development was oversubscribed by five times with orders totalling 429 million riyals (\$106 million) received.

Basis
"More than 65,000 applications were received and there were 182,500 subscribers," the official said.

Shares are expected to be allocated on a proportional basis following approval by the Ministry of Commerce.

The Makkah issue, which was Saudi Arabia's fourth in 1988, began on Sept 3 and was fully covered three weeks later.

Banks push up interest rates

UK trade deficit more than doubles

LONDON, Nov 25, (AP): Britain's merchandise trade deficit more than doubled to £2.93 billion (\$5.4 billion) in October as exports fell sharply and imports surged, the government announced today.

The Bank of England quickly pushed up interest rates to steady the financial markets after the news of the unexpectedly large shortfall sent the pound and stock prices tumbling.

The British Central Bank, by increasing its own money market lending rate, signalled a one percentage point rise in the commercial banks' base lending rate to 13 per cent from 12 per cent.

The commercial banks quickly responded, with Barclays Bank PLC and National Westminster Bank PLC the first to increase the benchmark rate.

It was the first such rate increase since Aug 25, when it was increased a full point to 12 per cent. The base rate has risen 5.5 points since early June.

British Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson has

said repeatedly that interest rates would have to rise further if the nation's economy continued to move at too fast a rate.

The British pound dropped from about \$1.8335 to \$1.8220 on the trade news but it bounced back to \$1.8370 on the rate increase. The Financial Times 100 share index stood at 1,814.2, down 18.8 points, or one per cent, at noon (1200 GMT) right after the central bank signalled the rate rise and half an hour after the trade report was released.

Exports

The seasonally adjusted deficit in October, which the government blamed partly on erratic items and distortions caused by a September mail strike, compared with a revised deficit of £1.09 billion (\$2 billion) in September and £954 million (\$1.8 billion) in October 1987.

Exports fell 10 per cent in October while imports gained 12 per cent, the Department of Trade and Industry said.

With October's trade in invis-

ble items — which covers services, overseas investment earnings and official transfer payments — estimated to be in surplus by £300 million (\$920 million), Britain's current account showed a record deficit of £2.43 billion (\$4.5 billion) in October, compared with a revised deficit of £1.09 billion (\$2 billion) in September and a deficit of £491 million (\$903 million) in October 1987.

The Department said the September postal dispute affected the recording of exports, but not imports. As much as £300 million of exports (\$552 million) that were allocated to September should have been allocated to October, it said.

Since the beginning of 1988, Britain's merchandise trade balance has been in deficit of £7.8 billion (\$14 billion) in the same period a year earlier.

The current account has been in deficit by £12.4 billion (\$23 billion) so far this year, compared with a deficit of £1.1 billion (\$2 billion) a year earlier.

US durable goods orders rise

WASHINGTON, Nov 25, (Reuters): Orders for durable goods in the United States rose 2.4 per cent last month after falling by a revised 2.9 per cent in September, the Commerce Department said today.

The September decline, previously reported as a 3.2 per cent drop, had led economists to believe that US economic growth was cooling off.

The October increase brought the value of orders for expensive manufactured products — "big ticket" items ranging from toasters to tanks that are designed to last at least three years — to a seasonally adjusted \$122.08 billion excluding the volatile category of military equipment.

durable goods orders fell 0.2 per cent last month after falling 2.5 per cent in September, the Commerce Department said. The department said that, excluding transportation equipment, orders were up 0.1 per cent in October after declining 0.4 per cent in September.

Economists had anticipated a rise of about 1.7 per cent in durable goods orders during October. However, traders noted that the

range of estimates for the highly volatile report varied from 1.8 to three per cent and little reaction was expected in the markets.

Daiwa chief economist Michael Moran said the gain was not overly strong and "should be viewed as a plus" for financial markets that have been sensitive toward signs of inflation.

Turkey, Soviet Union solve gas problems

ANKARA, Nov 25, (Reuters): Turkey has solved its problem with the Soviet Union over Ankara's low purchases of natural gas and expects an increase in overall trade, a senior Foreign Ministry official said today.

"There is great potential. We feel both sides can afford a much higher level of trade and economic co-operation and it appears both sides will do so," the official said.

He was speaking after the signing of an economic protocol which Soviet Foreign Economic Relations Minister Konstantin Katushev said had political as well as economic importance.

The Turkish official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters that Turkey had resolved its problems with the Soviet Union over gas brought in a pipeline across the Bulgarian border.

Addition

"The problem does not exist any more. We will buy close to 1.2 billion cubic metres this year... we have promised to buy an additional amount next year, about 1.6 billion cubic metres."

Soviet officials had complained that Turkey was not taking its agreed quota of about 1.5 billion cubic metres this year from the pipeline, which came on stream in mid-1987.

Turkey, a member of the NATO alliance and sometimes circumspect in dealings with neighbouring Russia, agreed in 1984 to buy up to six billion cubic metres of gas a year by 1992.

"There will be diversification

to lessen dependence on the Soviets," said the official, referring to planned natural gas purchases from Algeria and Libya.

Turkey has agreed to cover 70 per cent of the cost of natural gas with sales of goods to the Soviet Union. "This has opened a second front (for trade)," the official said.

Support

Two-way trade volume approached \$500 million last year and Katushev, quoted by the left-leaning daily Cumhuriyet, said he expected a 25 per cent increase in 1988.

"We will support moves by Turkish companies to set up fac-

ilities in the Soviet Union in fields including industry, leather, textiles, shoes and foodstuffs," he said.

In return, he was quoted as saying, Moscow wanted to set up power stations in Turkey run on natural gas and other plants.

The Turkish official said: "There are lots of untapped areas. For our part, trade has been based on raw materials. I think we could sell the Soviets light and industrial goods... we want balanced trade on the basis of mutual benefit."

He mentioned footwear, telephone switchboards, construction material, medical equipment, cement and small ships.

Turkish firms have won several contracts in the Soviet Union, including one to build a 1,000-bed hospital in Moscow.

Rise

Turkey is also looking at possible business with individual Soviet republics and expects a rise in border trade following the opening last August of the sole civilian border crossing at Sarp, on the Black Sea coast.

Officials said this week the government had approved an application by the Soviet Bank of Foreign Economic Affairs to open a representative office in Turkey and that state-owned Turkiye Emlak Bankasi A.S. had started contacts in Moscow.

Coffee producers face penalties for breaking export rules

LONDON, Nov 25, (AP): More than a dozen coffee-producing countries could have their export quotas cut for breaking international sales rules, International Coffee Organisation officials said yesterday.

ICO executive director Alexander Beltrao said quotas will be cut automatically for countries that fail by the end of the year to provide evidence of the arrival of beans shipped in the April-June quarter to consuming countries outside the organisations. The quotas would be cut by the amount for which proof is lacking.

Beltrao made the statement at the end of a two-day meeting of the 16-nation executive board.

Under the rules, proof of arrival for the coffee involved — 395,000 bags out of the total of 4.26 million exported to non-members in April-June — should have been in by Sept 30. One bag

equals 60 kilograms (132 pounds).

The board voted not to impose penalties immediately, a decision criticised by senior Brazilian and Colombian officials.

Colombia was disappointed that producers and some consumers had not been "responsible enough to accept the application of the rules," said Nestor Osorio, Colombia's permanent representative.

The board decided to extend the deadline for submission of proof to Dec 31.

ICO documents show that the main offender at the Sept 30 deadline was Mexico, with proof lacking for 284,286 bags.

Others included the Franco-phone Oamcaf producer group, with 38,743; Paraguay 19,000; Honduras 17,843; Costa Rica 11,543; Panama 9,763 and Ecuador 8,358.

"We are making full efforts to

comply (with the rules), but have to wait for documentation from our commercial partners," said Mexico's ICO delegate Jorge Oretga.

The 74-nation ICO regulates exports to importing members, including all large Western consuming countries, by a system of quotas aimed at restricting supplies to support prices.

A cut of 1,000 bags in a country's quota would mean a potential loss of revenue earning power of \$200,000 at current prices, Ortega said.

Exports to non-ICO members, which included all Eastern bloc nations, are often made at cheaper prices than those to members.

All exports are closely monitored by the ICO to stop cheaper coffee ostensibly being for a non-member destined for illegally diverted to member countries.

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Row may lead to disaster, says Sheikh Ali

OPEC on brink of output deal

VIENNA, Nov 25, (Reuters): OPEC ministers predicted higher energy costs today, saying they had almost clinched an elusive accord to cut excess oil output. But final endorsement of the deal by one key organisation member, Iran, was still awaited.

Oil prices jumped in Europe to their highest since mid-September as traders bet that a complex package, negotiated in eight days of talks in Vienna, would be accepted by Tehran and would reunite OPEC after two years of disarray.

Iran's difficulty is that the deal gives both it and erstwhile Gulf war foe Iraq equal output quotas. Iran, historically a bigger producer, has hitherto resisted Iraqi demands for equal treatment.

But Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh has now flown to Tehran to present the new OPEC package there.

Deal
Saudi Arabia's Hisham Nazer said he thought the deal would be signed. And Iraq's Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi was in buoyant mood, predicting a sharp rise in petroleum prices to

\$18 a barrel and telling reporters he thought the proposals on the table were acceptable to all 13 members of OPEC.

"This is the end of too many difficult moments, too many difficult issues that had been left unsettled," he said. "I expect the market will move very favourably."

Mike Rothman, oil analyst with Merrill Lynch, said it could signal the start of a new phase in OPEC's 28-year history.

He said that if the deal is put in place "OPEC will be able to focus on oil matters rather than the political complexities of the Gulf war which plagued decision-making for the past eight years."

Talks
While Iran's Aqazadeh flew out of Vienna to consult his cabinet, the 12 other ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries postponed a plenary session of their talks until tomorrow.

But some delegates do not expect to be in a position to sign until Sunday. Assuming, that is, Tehran accepts.

Aqazadeh told Reuters that he

left his Vienna hotel this morning: "Maybe I will come back on Sunday."

The package would slash current output by about 20 per cent to 18.5 million barrels a day for six months from Jan 1 while assigning Iraq and Iran equal quotas of 2.64 million barrels each.

The talks in Vienna were bogged down for eight days over the Iraq-Iran quota issue, with Aqazadeh at one stage telling reporters: "I will never concede to parity."

But Indonesian Oil Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita, a mediator, said today: "We have given them (the Iranians) a proposal that is fair to everybody."

Some oil analysts injected a note of caution, saying that a new agreement might not stick. OPEC members have flouted existing quotas in recent months and the United Arab Emirates has demanded to be allowed to pump more than other organisation state would allow.

Analysts said the proposed deal may on the face of it require Iran to concede the principle of

parity with Iraq, but it could also be construed as an economic and political victory.

Iran has maintained a 14.27 per cent share of OPEC output at the same level as in a now widely-flouted 1986 deal.

It will force Iraq to cut back production by about 50,000 barrels from current levels and block Iraqi plans to raise output to four million barrels per day.

Iran can also argue that Iraq has not achieved true parity since 11 other OPEC nations will be giving up part of their share of overall output to top up Iraq's quota.

OPEC has opted for a low overall ceiling of 18.5 million barrels which is consistent with Iran's "hawkish" policy of low output to force prices back up to an OPEC \$18 target.

OPEC experts were drafting the agreement today and some delegates said Aqazadeh, if he secures cabinet approval, may stay in Tehran and leaving signing it to a deputy.

Nick Antill, analyst at London Brokers County Natwest, told Reuters: "North Sea Brent oil won't reach \$18 but it could rise

to the \$16 to 17 range."

Brent is the most widely-traded oil and a favoured industry pricing barometer. Brent for January delivery traded up to \$14.38 per barrel in Europe today, the highest since mid-September. It was up about \$1.25 from Thursday's European close.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's oil minister warned yesterday that OPEC's failure to agree on oil production levels could lead to a total collapse in prices and deal a severe blow to the organisation.

In a telephone interview with the Beirut-based conservative daily Al Anwar, Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa said: "OPEC should come out with an agreement. If it does not, prices will collapse more than they already have and OPEC will collapse with them."

Seven days of closed-door bargaining among the ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) have so far yielded no agreement on a new output ceiling.

A row between the former Gulf war foes Iran and Iraq over levels of oil production was the main obstacle.

Saga Petroleum rejects Total's bid

OSLO, Nov 25, (Reuters): The board of Saga Petroleum A/S, a key player in Norway's economy, today rebuffed an attempt by France's Total Oil Company to take a large slice of the firm and bring it under foreign control.

The board of Norway's biggest private oil firm said after a three-hour meeting that it had unanimously agreed to not to change company rules on limiting foreign ownership which would allow Total's \$147-million bid to go ahead.

"Maybe it is time that we had a little peace to concentrate on constructive activities instead of on this nagging," board chairman Einar Falck told a news conference, in an apparent reference to domestic criticism of Saga's economic performance.

Opinion
"It is the board's opinion that a majority foreign shareholding in the company is neither in the interests of the company nor of the shareholders," the board said in a statement.

Since the board's decision was unanimous, brokerage analysts think it unlikely that an extraordinary shareholders' meeting called for Dec 15 will overturn it.

But Total, which already holds five per cent of Saga, said that it was maintaining its bid.

"The board's decision is a first step. It's now for the shareholders to decide," a spokesman said in Paris.

Total wants to buy 30 per cent more of Saga from two major Norwegian shareholders.

Successful
The bid, if successful, would make Saga a foreign-controlled company since total would hold 35 per cent and Sweden's AB Volvo already has 20 per cent. Current company rules limit foreign ownership to 30 per cent.

The board's decision also echoes cross-party political opposition in Norway to the planned deal which would require government approval even if given the go-ahead by the company.

The government faces a

dilemma over Saga because the company was set up by parliament as a 'third force' in Norway's oil industry in the 1970s.

Biggest
This was intended of counterbalancing 51 per cent state-owned Norsk Hydro A S, Norway's biggest diversified corporation with interests in oil, fertilisers and light metals, and state-run Statoil.

Saga has said it expects sharply lower profits this year, and the company's plans to develop the Snorre oilfield are said to be too expensive and to require extra capital.

Political and financial analysts say that if Norway, Western Europe's biggest oil producer after Britain, had blocked the deal, it could have caused serious problems with France.

Total, as France's second oil company, is 40 per cent government-owned and Paris has contracted to buy large amounts of gas from Norway's huge Troll field into the next century.

Taiwan swaps its cash for gold bars

TAIPEI, Nov 25, (Reuters): Taiwan is converting its mountain of hard cash into gold and is soon likely to overtake Japan as the world's largest buyer of the metal, bullion dealers say.

Businessmen are following their Chinese instincts for safe investments by buying gold and hiding it at home.

The government, anxious to diversify foreign exchange holdings of \$73 billion and cut a trade surplus, has been flying in plane-loads of the precious metal and stashing it in vaults.

"Taiwan has caught gold fever," said a dealer with one of the island's largest bullion houses.

Coins
Taiwan imported about 311 tonnes of gold bars and coins worth about \$4.55 billion in the first 10 months of 1988 against only 40 tonnes a year earlier, according to Finance Ministry figures.

Dealers estimate legal imports this year will reach between 330 and 340 tonnes, about 60 per cent bought by the Central Bank. They say up to 160 tonnes more will be smuggled in.

By comparison, an executive at a Japanese bullion house in Taiwan predicted Japan would import 315 tonnes this year.

Applications
to treasury bonds:

KUWAIT, Nov 25, (KUNA): A statement issued here today by the Central Bank of Kuwait noted that the number of subscription applications to the treasury bonds stood at eight. The values of applications, which were all accepted, amounted to KD36,064 million, covering 180, 32 per cent of the volume of issue which was only 20 millions.

Dollar mixed and gold strengthens

UK trade figures send stocks diving

LONDON, Nov 25, (Agencies): The dollar closed mixed against major European currencies today. Gold prices were up.

The dollar finished the day up in Frankfurt at 1.7170 marks against yesterday's closing 1.7150, in Zurich at 1.4375 Swiss francs against 1.4360, in Paris at 5.8715 francs against 5.8660 and in Brussels at 36.24 Belgian francs against 36.18.

The US unit was down in Milan at 1.276, 10 lire.

In London, the pound closed at \$1.8445 compared to \$1.8360. Gold was up in Zurich at \$423.50 per ounce against \$420 and in London at \$424.25 per ounce against \$420 yesterday.

Higher
Silver closed higher in Zurich at \$6.20 per ounce against \$6.15 and rose in London to \$6.18 per ounce against \$6.14.

Meanwhile, London shares tumbled 50 points after Britain announced its worst ever monthly trade figures and raised interest rates to try to cool a spending boom blamed for rising imports.

Wall Street stocks also showed early losses, and gold prices rose, on renewed fears about inflation. This followed a jump in petroleum prices after news that the Opec organisation meeting in Vienna was near an accord that would cut excess oil output.

Jitters
The British interest rate rise added to jitters on Wall Street that US interest rates may rise, too. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 20 points before rallying a little.

London stocks started to plummet in hectic trading

seconds after Britain announced a current account deficit of £2.43 billion (\$4.45 billion) in October, double what the market had been expecting.

The FTSE index of 100 British blue chips fell 50.5 points or 2.8 per cent from yesterday's close to a low of 1,782.5 before edging back up above 1,790. Dealers said they could not remember a similar fall since the tail end of last year's global crash.

"No-one wants to know about buying this market, people are likely to go away and lick their wounds," one dealer said.

Imports
The October figures showed a 12 per cent leap in imports from September as Britons continued to buy more foreign goods.

This prompted the Bank of

England (central bank) to renew an attack on consumer spending by raising interest rates by one percentage point to 13 per cent—the ninth rise since June.

Oil prices rose when OPEC ministers in Vienna said they were close to an agreement to cut output by 20 per cent from January.

North Sea Brent blend, the most widely-traded international crude, was up nearly \$1.60 from yesterday at around \$14.50 a barrel.

Wall Street share traders, their numbers depleted as many extended yesterday's Thanksgiving Day holiday into a long weekend, pushed the Dow Jones Industrial Average down 19 points by late morning in New York to 2,073.

US stocks fell with the bond market as oil prices rose.

In currency trading, sterling tumbled after the British trade figures and rebounded just as fast when interest rates went up.

Scrambled
"Everyone scrambled to sell the pound on the trade data and then they scrambled just as fast to buy it again when the interest rates went up," said a dealer in Frankfurt.

Usually, the spotlight was off the dollar. The threat of further central bank intervention after its recent slide deterred investors who want to sell it because of their anxieties about America's trade and budget deficits.

It held steady as European traders started to wind down for the weekend and in the London afternoon fetched 1.7160 West German marks and 121.00 Japanese yen against yesterday's close of 1.7145 and 121.03.

Change in hotel's management won't affect services



Faisal Ahmad Al Ghanim

THE chairman of the Kuwaiti Hotels Co., Faisal Ahmad Al Ghanim, announced yesterday that the company will start managing the Kuwait Hilton Hotel from the beginning of next year.

He said that the hotel's name will become Kuwait International Hotel and a contract to this effect was signed with the Kuwait Real Estate Investment Group, the owner of the hotel.

Speaking to reporters at a press conference, Al Ghanim said that Hermann Simon from Austria has been appointed as the new general manager of the hotel. The majority of the present employees will keep their jobs.

Additions
Al Ghanim said the company is currently studying possible additions or renewal projects necessary for the hotel. He also stressed that the change in the hotel's management will not affect its high standard of services. The hotel has about 400 rooms and suites besides halls, restaurants and other services.

Discussing the activities of the Kuwaiti Hotels Co., Al Ghanim said the company, since its establishment in 1962, took part in many projects dealing with the management of hotels and resorts. Through these projects, the company gained considerable amount of experience in running hotels and resorts.

It also contributed to the establishment of the Safat Hotels Co., which started running many international hotels in UK, the Kheirani resort and the Airport Hotel in Kuwait. The company also provides catering services to over 20 establishments and companies.

Forattini welcomes KSE decision to list foreign firms

This is an encouraging move, says envoy

By Fathima Ahmed

ITALIAN Ambassador to Kuwait Lucio Forattini has welcomed a recent Kuwait Stock Exchange decision to list foreign companies as part of plans to help economic recovery.

"This is an encouraging move, reflecting the (Kuwait) government's far-sighted financial and economic policies," said Forattini.

After British Petroleum recently asked Kuwait to cut down its shares to 9.5 per cent, there has been an increasing tendency to review the investment policy, according to sources. One alternative is to encourage foreign companies participation in the local stock exchange.

Vital
The Kuwait Stock Exchange is expected to become a vital investment centre in the Arab world. The Bahrain Stock Exchange and the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting, based in Doha, are also trying to attract industrial investors.

The idea, it seems, is to stem outflow of finance and boost inflow of capital.

The Italian envoy believes that "more free trade zones" would encourage economic recovery and give an impetus to further commercial ties.

But foreign companies are waiting for a "clearer panorama" of the region's economy after the ceasefire in the Gulf war, the envoy said. In the meantime, they are exploring opportunities.

Forattini said Italy is planning to hold a "roundtable on investments" sometime next year.

"We want to increase mutual knowledge about our respective markets," he said.

Production
This year was a favourable year for the Italian economy, the envoy said. In the first quarter of 1988, industrial production rose by 7.3 per cent in comparison with last year. Turnover of industrial products increased between 11.7 and 17.6 per cent on average in the same period.

"Production was stimulated by domestic demand and outlays for investments, mostly orders for machinery," he said.

Domestic consumption in Italy grew contributing to that country's economic growth. Inflation is on the rise, slightly affecting wholesale prices, up by 4.2 per cent and retail prices rose by 5.1 per cent during the first

seven months this year as compared with 1987.

Italy, the fifth largest exporter to Kuwait, is hoping to offer expertise to maintain the facilities in the oil, desalination and power sectors. Tomorrow, the technological seminar on "Italian Plant Maintenance Proposals" will be held in Kuwait. Experts from three leading Italian companies will give talks on how to maintain the infrastructure and facilities in these vital sectors. The seminar will be attended by invitees from Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar.

"This is not an initiative purely to project our image, but we would like to contribute our expertise to industrial maintenance," he said.

Exports

In 1987 Italy was the fifth largest exporter to Kuwait after Japan, the US, West Germany and the UK. Italian exports were valued at \$9.1 billion (KD. one million is 100 dirhams) with a market share of 6.1 per cent. In the first quarter this year, Italy exported goods worth 126.2 billion lira.

Italy exports gold, silver, platinum, machinery, furniture, shoes, marbles, building materials, garments, sanitary-ware, bathroom fittings and leisure boats.

Italy buys crude oil and gas from Kuwait. Kuwaiti exports to Italy reached 1,242 billion lira. Italy's foreign trade record has also improved over the last year. Despite a deficit in trade balance, there was a surplus in the balance of payments.

Jordanian dinar firms

AMMAN, Nov 25, (Reuters): The Jordanian dinar firmed again against the dollar yesterday after the Central Bank ordered banks to stop asking customers to provide foreign currency in cash before opening letters of credit.

Banks quoted the dinar in a range of 525/535 fils to the dollar compared to 530/540 on Wednesday, while moneychangers priced it at 520/530. There are 1,000 fils in a dinar.

"It's a chain reaction. People seem to be dumping dollars they had bought for speculation," one dealer said.

"The dinar may go up to around 500 fils," said another.

Upturn
The upturn for the Jordanian currency began after the Central Bank asked banks on Saturday to make more foreign exchange available to meet commercial demand and trade it more freely among themselves. The dinar then stood at 540/550 fils.

On Wednesday the Central Bank issued a memorandum telling banks they were violating regulations by asking clients to provide cash in foreign currency to meet commitments or pay cash margins in foreign currency when opening letters of credit.

The Central Bank said banks should supply the foreign currency themselves and charge any margins in dinars only.

Value
The dinar has lost about two-fifths of its dollar value since the Central Bank, lacking foreign reserves to defend the currency, allowed a partial float in mid-October.

Reserves, which stood at \$67.7 million in August, the latest figure available, received a boost this week when Saudi Arabia paid \$39.5 million into the treasury.

It was the fifth of six such instalments received in aid from Riyadh this year. Saudi Arabia is the only Arab donor still paying in full aid pledges made at a 1978 Arab League summit.

GCC trade ministers to meet

RIYADH, Nov 25, (OPECNA): Trade ministers of the six-member Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) are to meet tomorrow in Bahrain.

The 12th meeting of the council's Trade Co-operation Committee is scheduled to discuss, among other topics, a GCC General Secretariat report on regulations governing trade agencies.

In addition, the ministers — from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman — will look at the establishment of a trade arbitration centre for settling any disputes arising among member countries.

On Sunday, the trade ministers will attend a meeting of the GCC standards organisation which will review new standards and specifications and the annual report of its secretary general.

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION

Available

RAWDA, accommodation in a decent villa for Goan bachelor to share with a Goan bachelor. Bus routes 17, 32, 24, 27. Tel. 2641587, mornings 2552699, 3-6pm. (AT6-44978-3)

SALMIYA, near the Rumaithiya Garden. One room with water and electricity for a couple or 2/3 working ladies. Bus routes 24, 27, 519. Rent KD 60/- Tel. Mr. Johar, 5637671. (AT5-44936-3)

KUWAIT CITY, above Hot Pot. One room in a 2 bedroom flat, for a single person. Tel. Victoria, 2408473, after 2 pm. (AT6-44972-2)

SALWA, Area 10, 2 new outside buildings (mulhaq), 2 rooms, 1 bathroom, kitchen with cabinets for a small family or a single person only. Tel. Mr. Nasser, 5634486. (AT2-44892-6)

KEIFAN, House No. 8, Street No. 55, Area No. 5, opp. girls' college. 2 rooms, one for a separate family or bachelors and another room for sharing. Tel. Yusuf Khan, 4845925. (AT5-44945-3)

KUWAIT CITY behind the Sharq Fire Station, one large room for one or two Indian bachelors to share with a family. Rent KD80, electricity and water inclusive. Tel. 2419327. (AT5-44947-3)

Wanted

FARWANIYA, behind the Holiday Inn. Accommodation required for an Indian bachelor to share with a family or another bachelor. Tel. Mr. Kishor, 4738389/933, 4738418, 9 am - 5:30 pm. (AT5-44929-3)

For Rent

HADIYA, One storey villa with a garden, 4 bedrooms, sitting room, study room, family room with tele. and carpets. Tel. 3983934. (AT5-44890-3)

SALWA, Block 1, near the Indian School, 3 bedroom mulhaq with 2 bathrooms with kitchen and separate entrance. Rent KD130. Tel. Abu Hasan, 3917744, 3918833. (AT1-44949-3)

FOR SALE

Cars

NISSAN Datsun 1980 automatic, white with AC and 4 doors in good condition. KD 250. Tel. 5653952, 9035881. (AT6-44948-3)

CHEVROLET Celebrity 1982 insured up to Nov. '89, fully automatic, in good condition. KD 600, ono. Tel. 5634322. (AT6-44939-2)

DAIHATSU Rocky 4 wheel drive, end '85 long wheel base, one owner. KD 1,500, ono. Tel. 2422846, during office hours. (AT6-44934-3)

MAZDA 808 station wagon 1977, white, with new engine, insured upto Nov 1989, in good condition. KD200 (fixed price). Tel. Mr. Khan, 4814733, 8 am - 6:30 pm. (AT6-44971-3)

SUZUKI saloon, 1986 model, automatic, golden colour, with AC. One owner, in very good condition. KD1100 or down payment KD100 and KD47 by monthly instalments. Tel. 5653952, 9035884. (AT5-44960-3)

CHEVROLET Caprice Brougham '88, full options, in perfect condition. KD3,600 or higher offer. Tel. 2623598 off., 5385634 Res. (AT5-44950-3)

AUDI 200 Turbo 1984, automatic, 41,000 kms, metallic, golden, full options, in excellent condition. Reasonable price. Tel. 2424593, 2424578, 8 am - 1 pm and 4:30 - 8 pm. (AT1-44928-3)

Miscellaneous

SALMIYA, Blajet Street, 2 bedroom flat, fully furnished, CAC, with saloon, 2 bathrooms, servants' room and car parking, for sale. Tel. 5742453. (AT1-AA-TM-3)

SALMIYA, 2 bedroom flat in modern building with swimming pool and garage, and complete furnishings. KD 780. Rent KD 250, available from mid-Dec. Tel. 5758473, after 6 pm. (AT6-44966-3)

WALL shelf unit on chest of drawers KD55, chest of drawers KD30. Rotissere KD10, coffee table and 4 side tables KD15 and trolley KD8. Tel. Mr. Brian 5717788. (AT6-44968-2)

SUZUKI motorcycle 1988, dr. big, only 430 kms. Tel. 4840076, 8 am - 5 pm. (AT5-44950-3)

THREE-PIECE sofa-set, made of the best Indian wood, other furniture items and a Hawaiian guitar. All are in good condition, for immediate sale. Tel. 5720378. (AT5-44931-3)

HOUSEHOLD goods, washing machine, plants, British women's and children's fashion clothes, etc. for sale. Owner leaving Kuwait. Tel. 3721468 ext. 244, 5637634. (AT5-44953-3)

PETS

PERSIAN kitten, red, KD100, blue cream KD130. Tel. 5314119. (AT5-44938-3)

WANTED

FERRARI Sport coupe with 2 or 4 seats. Body and interior must be in top condition. But mechanical condition not so important. Tel. 5331584, after 7 pm. (AT5-44946-6)

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HEARTS CRUSH MOSTAR AT HOME

Inter lead Italian trio towards last eight

HARROGATE, England, Nov 25 (Reuters): Finland's Markku Alen lifted the elusive British RAC Rally title at the 14th attempt after his main rivals came to grief in icy conditions yesterday.

Alen, 37, stormed home in his Lancia with more than four minutes to spare over nearest challenger fellow-Finn Timo Salonen in a Mazda. Bjorn Waldegard of Sweden was third, 2-1/2 minutes further back in the five-day event, the last round of the season.

Alen, whose win lifted him to second in the final standings behind absent teammate and world champion Massimo Biasion of Italy, won four of the final day's five stages.

But not until overnight leader Juha Kankkunen pulled out, followed by new pacesetter Hannu Mikkola, did Alen ease up.

He can attribute some of his good fortune to a selfless gesture by rival Kankkunen whose own chance disappeared when he spun off on black ice and hit a tree.

Ensure

The Finnish former double world champion rushed up to the road with a warning triangle to ensure that the next car, Alen's, would not suffer the same fate.

"If I can't win the event, I want my friend to win it," said Kankkunen.

Alen's other big threat, four-times RAC winner Hannu Mikkola, also joined the casualties in a dramatic finale to the 2,815-km event.

Ironically, in a rally dominated by snow and ice, five stages from home Mikkola was dazed by the sun and went off the road, damaging his gearbox.

Cayton blames King for postponement

NEW YORK, Nov 25 (Reuters): Mike Tyson's title defence against Briton Frank Bruno was postponed again because no settlement has been reached in a dispute between the champion's manager, Bill Cayton, and promoter Don King, Cayton said on Wednesday.

Cayton denied that the latest setback has anything to do with the heavyweight champion being out of shape. Though he admitted that Tyson was far from his best form, Cayton said that would not have held up the fight.

"He's very overweight. I've never seen him as overweight as he is now. But the fact is that I did not say Mike needs extra time because in seven weeks he has always had the ability to get into shape."

"The most important thing now is to get Mike back into training," Cayton told Reuters.

LONDON, Nov 25 (Reuters): Internazionale Milan led the way on Wednesday as three of Italy's leading clubs moved within comfortable reach of the UEFA Cup quarterfinals with typically controlled victories in the away legs of their third round ties.

Italian First Division leaders Internazionale travelled to West Germany and silenced a 70,000 crowd by beating Bayern Munich 2-0 in bitterly cold conditions at the Olympic stadium.

Brilliant individual goals by Aldo Serena and Nicola Berti secured their victory in the second half after Bayern had run out of ideas against a typically disciplined Italian defence.

"I am not naive. I know we have very little chance of reaching the next round," admitted Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes after the first leg in which captain and libero Klaus Augenthaler produced their best effort by hitting the bar early in the second half.

Internazionale, with the cushion of a 2-0 lead behind them, look virtual favourites for the last eight where they are likely to be joined by at least two other Italian teams and possibly three.

Napoli, inspired by Argentine captain Diego Maradona, won 1-0 in France against Bordeaux with a sixth minute goal by Italy's leading goalscorer



Maradona (left) tries to take the ball away from Jean Tigana (centre). (Reuters wirephoto)

Andrea Carnevale and Juventus — playing in Belgium for the first time since the Heysel stadium tragedy in 1985 — did the same against FC Liege, veteran striker

Alessandro Altobelli grabbing the only goal in the 18th minute. Napoli's win was less than they deserved from what turned into a bruising encounter. Maradona



Lothar Mathaeus (left) of Inter and Olaf Thon go for the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

hit the bar and Brazilian Careca forced a fine save before French sweeper Alain Roche and Italian midfielder Fernando de Napoli were sent off after a violent clash.

Roma were the only Italian team to lose. Even with the benefit of thick black tights to keep them warm, they were beaten 2-0 by Dynamo Dresden on a hard,

snow-covered pitch.

Torsten Guetschow and Ralf Minge scored in each half to give the East Germans hope of survival in Rome in a fortnight's time.

Scottish club Hearts were the most emphatic winners of the night, beating Valez Mostar of Yugoslavia 3-0 in Edinburgh with goals from Eamonn Bannon, Mick Galloway and a last-minute strike by John Colquhoun.

The Yugoslavs were well beaten and had midfielder Ismet Susic sent off after 85 minutes as Hearts, hoping for their first quarterfinal appearance in any European competition, piled forward in search of their third goal.

In the remaining ties, Victoria Bucharest were unable to beat Finland's Turun Palloseura by more than a single goal and Real Sociedad of Spain struggled to gain the same advantage over West Germany's Cologne.

Ursu put the Romanians ahead against the Finns as early as the fourth minute, but they were then left frustrated.

It was a different story in San Sebastian where substitute striker Mikel Loinaz came on in the second half and scored a solo goal to keep alive Basque hopes of representing Spain in the quarterfinals.

Jahangir beats Jansher for crown

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan, Nov 25 (Reuters): Jahangir Khan turned on his devastating attacking game to take the Pakistan President's Gold Cup yesterday with a commanding win over his arch-rival and compatriot Jansher Khan.

Acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan was present to watch the world's top two players in a game that lasted more than 90 minutes before Jahangir ran out a 15-10 15-7 10-15 15-8 winner.

Top seed Jansher, bothered by a tendon injury, started strongly to take an 8-3 lead in the 35-minute first game. But Jahangir speeded up his play and levelled the score at 9-9 before going away to take the game.

The world champion piled on the pressure to secure the second game and appeared headed for a whitewash until Jansher battled back to win the hard-fought third.

Attack

But Jahangir, fitter and faster than his fellow-Pakistani, returned to the attack in the fourth to complete his second successive home win over Jansher following the Pakistan Open championship in September.

Afterwards Jahangir acknowledged that Jansher was below his best and said that the new American points system had also helped him as neither player could afford risky shots.

Jansher said he hoped to have another crack at the world champion in the last Grand Prix tournament of the year in Oman next week. Jahangir collected \$8,100 for the victory and Jansher \$5,400.

Johnson aims to be back for 1992 Games

ROME, Nov 25 (Reuters): Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson, stripped of his gold medal in a doping scandal at the Seoul Olympics, was quoted yesterday as saying he hoped to return to the track for the 1992 Games in Barcelona.

"I hope so, a lot," Johnson, 26, told the Italian magazine L'Espresso in an interview at his Toronto home.

"Of course, if I'm banned for two years I'll need a whole year more to recover but I think that 1992 will be something people will never be able to forget."

Johnson was banned from international competition for at least two years in September when traces of the banned anabolic steroid stanozolol were found in urine tests after his 100 metres victory in Seoul over American arch-rival Carl Lewis.

Johnson repeated previous denials that he had knowingly taken banned drugs and said he considered himself innocent.

Salcete outplay Strikers for title



David receives the winners' trophy from Aref Essa. (2nd right)

ROMMEL scored a goal in each half to help Salcete United, the first team to win the final of the Rothmans Gold Cup soccer tournament at the Sour grounds yesterday morning.

The young Salcete was full of confidence and was never unruffled by their more experienced opponents throughout the game. UG Strikers had been billed as favourite by all and the team had been intent on letting their rivals score a maiden triumph but to no avail.

The game started with forays by both the sides into each

other's halves. They raided each other's goal but for some time both the defences held firm.

Punched

The first opportunity came Strikers' way. Casmiro had picked up a beautiful pass his shot seemed to have found its mark when Salcete goalkeeper punched the ball away at the last moment. The Strikers failed to take advantage of the resultant corner.

The Strikers kept up the momentum but the Salcete players thwarted all their attacks. The goal in the first half



The winners with Aref Essa (centre) and other officials. (Photos by Mohammed Bedaq)

came through a penalty. Salcete captain David seemed to be in a scoring position when he was brought down by the Strikers' defender and Rommel converted the penalty awarded by the referee.

Both the sides made two changes each early on in the second half with Strikers opting on players to stop the speedy Salcete forwards.

Knowing that a one goal lead was not enough, Salcete went on the attack and dominated the game. Their captain David failed to convert twice and Rommel

missed a sitter.

Salcete's Victor was in brilliant form on the game earned him the Man of the Match award. The second goal by Rommel came well into the second half when his shot was deflected into the net off the crossbar.

Emerge

The Strikers tried hard to get into the game but to no avail. Salcete rode out the remaining time to emerge winners.

The prizes were presented to the winners by Aref Essa, the area manager of Rothmans, the sponsors of the tournament.

Liverpool beat Arsenal in Cup third round

LONDON, Nov 25 (Reuters): Substitute striker John Aldridge headed a goal three minutes from time to earn Liverpool a 2-1 victory over Arsenal in their marathon League Cup tie on Wednesday.

But an ugly incident involving Liverpool boss Kenny Dalglish, the police and a section of the crowd at neutral Villa Park, Birmingham, marred the third round second replay between the two sides currently rated the best in England.

Dalglish leapt from the dugout as Steve McMahon drove a raking 20-metre shot into the Arsenal net in the 61st minute to make the score 1-1.

Jubilant Liverpool fans poured on to the pitch and as Dalglish turned to leave he was hit in the face by an object thrown from the crowd.

The Liverpool manager picked up the missile and appeared to hurt it back at the spectators. Police then moved in to speak to Dalglish, the former Liverpool and Scotland striker.

Arsenal, bidding for their third successive appearance in the League Cup final, took command of the tie in the 26th minute when Paul Merson scored.

After an initial 1-1 draw at

Liverpool's Anfield home and a goalless replay at Highbury, it was a goal which left Arsenal on course for a fourth-round clash with London rivals West Ham.

But McMahon's effort brought the sides level again after 241 minutes of action and then Aldridge — brought on just before halftime for the injured Ian Rush — rose at the far post to secure Liverpool's passage.

Former Barcelona marksman Mark Hughes gave Manchester United the lead eight minutes from the end of their First Division clash with Sheffield Wednesday at Old Trafford.

But the visitors were level within a minute, Colin West snatching an equaliser as United stumbled to a 1-1 draw.

Results
English Division One
Manchester U. 1 Sheffield Wed. 1
Tottenham 1 Coventry 1
English Football League Cup third round, second replay
Liverpool 2 Arsenal 1
(Played at Villa Park. Liverpool away to West Ham in fourth round)
English Football Association (FA) Cup first round replays
Fulham 2 Torquay 3
Torquay away to Yeovil in second round
Leyton Orient 2 Enfield 2
(After extra time 2-2, eventual winners at home to Cardiff)
Peterborough 1 Gillingham 0
(Peterborough at home to Brentford)

Oilers slam Cowboys

NEW YORK, Nov 25 (AP): Warren Moon's 5-yard scoring pass to Drew Hill in the fourth period rallied the Houston Oilers to a hard-earned 25-17 victory yesterday over the down-trodden Dallas Cowboys, who suffered a ninth consecutive loss.

In the other National Football League game on Thanksgiving Day, the Minnesota Vikings strengthened their playoff position as Alfred Anderson ran for two touchdowns and Chuck Nelson kicked three field goals in a 23-0 romp over the Detroit Lions, who managed just 60 total yards offense.

Dropped

Houston improved its record to 9-4, just a half-game behind Cincinnati in the AFC Central. Dallas dropped to 2-11, tying a club record for losses in a season. Dallas was 0-11-1 in its expansion season of 1960.

The Cowboys, behind Herschel Walker and Steve Pelluer, gave the heavily favoured Oilers

a fright before Moon steadied the Oilers, who suffered all their losses on the road this year.

Pelluer, making his first start in three games, fooled the Oilers in the third period by rolling around right end from three yards away to hand Dallas a 17-10 lead.

Improved

Tony Zendejas' 49-yard field goal trimmed the deficit to 17-13 for the Oilers. Then Moon hit a vital third-down, 14-yard pass to Leonard Harris to keep alive the drive to what proved to be the game-winning score with 11:53 left in the game.

Zendejas, who missed the extra point, then kicked field goals of 47 and 22 yards to stretch the lead.

The Vikings who have won five of their last six games and four straight, improved to 9-4 in the NFC Central and have the best record among conference teams that aren't division leaders.

EDUCATION EXHIBITION

AT

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

IN

MANSOURIYAH

STUDY IN SCOTLAND

SATURDAY 26th NOVEMBER

to

TUESDAY 29th NOVEMBER

MORNINGS: 9:00 - 12:30

EVENINGS: 5:00 - 8:00

Information will be available on ALL levels of Scottish education, from schooling for children through Ph.D courses at universities.

Each night a guest speaker who has graduated from a Scottish university will give a short talk on higher education in Scotland.

Lecture times: 6:30 - 7:00

every evening (check with The British Council on the day in case of changes)



Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Top player

LONDON, Nov 25, (Reuters): Striker Marco van Basten, who helped the Dutch to the European Soccer Championship and AC Milan to the Italian League title, has been named World Soccer magazine.

One-day series

WELLINGTON, Nov 25, (Reuters): England may join New Zealand and Pakistan in a one-day cricket series in New Zealand early next year. The New Zealand Cricket Council (NZCC) board would not comment on the possibility.

Teams appeal

GENEVA, Nov 25, (Reuters): Italian League champions AC Milan and Scotland's Glasgow Rangers have appealed against bans on strikers Pietro Paolo Viridis and Ally McCoist respectively following incidents in European Football Union (UEFA) Cup ties.

Football ban

ZURICH, Nov 25, (KUNA): A ban on Iraq and Iran playing international football matches at home, imposed by the sport's governing body because of the Gulf war, is expected to remain in force despite the fact that there has been a ceasefire for more than three months.

WBC title

FORLÌ, Italy, Nov 25, (Reuters): Mexico's Daniel Zaragoza defends his World Boxing Council super-bantamweight title against Valerio Nati of Italy tomorrow in what should be a close fight between boxers with great respect for each other.

WBA champion

SEOUL, Nov 25, (Reuters): World Boxing Association (WBA) bantamweight champion Moon Sung-Kil of South Korea says he will retain his title by knocking out challenger Edgar Monserat of Panama on Sunday.

Iraqi committee

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Nov 25, (AP): A new chairman for the Iraqi National Olympic Committee was appointed Wednesday, replacing the president's son Oday Hussein, the official Iraqi News Agency reported. The agency said Karim Mahmoud Al Malla was unanimously elected during the committee's general board meeting, attended by 93 members out of 135.

College football

AUSTIN, Texas, Nov 25, (AP): Darren Lewis ran for 212 yards and a touchdown and linebacker John Roper returned a blocked field goal 48 yards for another score as Texas A and M built a big early lead and then held off Texas 28-24 in a Southwest Conference College football game last night.

Kagoshima golf

TOKYO, Nov 25, (Reuters): Spaniard Jose-Maria Olazabal, seeking a first win in Japan, shot three birdies on the front nine on the way to a second round 69 and a share of the halfway lead in the Kagoshima International golf tournament today.

MINIE WINS LADIES SINGLES CROWN

Faiz crushes Reji to regain badminton title

FAIZ MOHYUDDIN proved that he was the undisputed king of Kuwait badminton when he won the Kuwait Open men's singles title for the fifth time at the Hubara courts on Thursday.

Faiz, who was the top seed and favourite to regain the title, was merciless in his 15-1 15-4 victory over Reji Joseph. Faiz lost the title last year when he opted out of the tournament.

The ladies singles saw a new champion this year when Minie Nainan overcame Reeny Tharian in a tough game to win 11-6 9-11 12-9.

Possible

The men's singles was played on a fast note with Faiz always on the attack and Reji Joseph helpless and attempting to gain as many points as possible. There were not many for him in the first set, however, as Faiz gave away one before taking the set.

In the second set Faiz relaxed a little as he had to play in the mixed doubles and gave away four points.

Faiz reached the final by scoring an equally easy victory. He crushed T.C. George 15-0 15-5 on Wednesday to set up the game against Joseph, who was made to struggle by Siva Kumar in the other semifinal.

Siva, who topped a number of seeded players including last year's champion M.K. Thomas,



Faiz receives his trophy.

went down 10-15 15-7 15-11.

In the ladies singles, all the semifinal and final matches were very close affairs. Minie encountered a tough opponent in Reeny John, last year's champion, when they clashed in the semifinal. After losing the first set, Minie won the next two to take the game 8-11 11-3 11-9.

The other semifinal saw Reeny Tharian win the first set against Suja Varghese. But the next set was won by Suja. Reeny Tharian was, however, at her best in the third set. Reeny Tharian won 11-3 6-11 11-3.

The ladies final seemed a one-

sided affair in the first set which Minie Tharian took after giving away only six points. But Reeny Tharian fought back brilliantly to win the next. The last set was a close affair with the game going into a tie-breaker before Minie overcame her opponent.

The men's doubles was won by Koshi Thomas and J. Varghese, who beat P. Cherian and Siva Kumar 15-11 15-4 in the final. Koshi and Varghese reached the final with a 15-10 15-11 victory over P.I. Chacko and P.K. Sathish. Cherian and Siva Kumar had defeated L. Gonsalves and Bijoy Joseph 10-15 15-10 18-17 in



A happy Minie gets her prize.

the other semifinal on Wednesday.

Reeny John and Suja Varghese took the ladies doubles title after a hard-fought 15-18 15-11 victory over the mother and daughter combination of V. Kutty and A. Kutty.

In the semifinals Reeny John and Suja Varghese beat Reeny Tharian and S. Jacob 15-4 15-6 while V. Kutty and A. Kutty outclassed Minie Nainan and V. Jacob 15-7 15-5.

Faiz Mohyuddin and Reeny John went home with double crowns after clinching the mixed doubles crown with an easy 15-1

15-2 victory over the husband and wife team of J. Varghese and S. Varghese.

Earlier on Wednesday, Faiz and Reeny beat T.C. George and Minie Nainan 15-3 15-5 in one semifinal while J. and S. Varghese overcame R. Sequeira and R. George 18-13 7-15 15-10.

The prizes were presented to the winners by Abdurahman Al Tawbeed, director of the Ahmadi Immigration Department, on behalf of the Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Ali Al Salem Al Sabah. The Pakistani Ambassador to Kuwait Zaid Saeed also watched the finals on Thursday.

Mussad Al Zeer, the chairman of the Hubara Badminton Committee, read out the governor's message to the competitors on his behalf.

Faiz, talking to the Arab Times after his victory, said that the competition had been quite tough in all the groups except the men's singles where he did not have to exert much effort to take the title.

"There was not much competition for me in the men's singles and unless a new player of very high standard emerges before the next tourney, I will Inshallah hold on to the title," he said.

Decided

Faiz added that since he had started taking part in the Kuwait Open, he has lost only one set in six years. He won the first Open in 1983. He won the singles title for four straight years, 1983 to 1986, before he decided not to take part in the tournament last year. He took the triple crown from 1984 to 1986.

Faiz has yet to lose a game and so far, from the players seen in action, it seems very likely that Kuwait badminton will remain his domain for a number of years.

There were rumours, however, going around on Thursday that an international player would be brought to Kuwait next year to stop Faiz extending his reign.



Reeny John collects her mixed-doubles trophy.



Reeny Tharian, ladies singles runner-up



Some of the prize-winners. (Photos by Mohammed Bedaq)

Eddery to ride Moon Madness in Japan Cup

Tony Bin and Tamamo Cross tipped to win

TOKYO, Nov 25, (Reuters): Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner Tony Bin and home-trained Tamamo Cross will be the horses to beat in Sunday's Japan Cup from a field of 14 today by the withdrawals of Sky Chase and Hours After.

Thanks to his Arc victory last month, the five-year-old Italian-trained Tony Bin is drawing the most attention since legendary gelding John Henry competed in the second running of the annual Cup in 1982.

This year about \$1 million awaits the winners of the turf race for three-year-olds and up over 2,400 metres (1-1/2 miles). The going at Tokyo racecourse is firm.

"The horse's condition remained unchanged today. Tony Bin will run as he did in the

prix," trainer Luigi Camici said today.

"I think the pace may be fast all the way," Camici added after watching Tony Bin's morning work-out with West Germany's best horse Kendor, a four-year-old colt.

Local hope Tamamo Cross, also a four-year-old colt, was the first thoroughbred to win both the prestigious spring and autumn Emperor's Cup races in the same year, two of eight straight victories going into Sunday's race.

Scratched

Tamamo Cross' Japanese jockey Katsumi Minai said he would not be setting the pace for the field, down from the original entry of 16 after French Derby winner Hours After and Australia's Sky Chase were scratched.

Hours After had a leg injury and Sky Chase was suffering from a cold, officials of the Japan Racing Association said.

Hours After was an outsider, but Sky Chase was seen as a serious contender after finishing second to American raider Salem Drive in the Fuji Stakes, run at the same course and regarded as a trial for the Cup, 12 days ago.

Of the other non-Japanese horses, Moon Madness and Shady Heights, both British-trained, are also drawing attention.

Moon Madness will be ridden by Britain's top jockey, Pat Eddery of Ireland. Japan's leading rider, Masato Shibata, will be on four-year-old colt Shady Heights.

The 1986 English St Leger win-

ner Moon Madness, a five-year-old horse, has the advantage of having run the same race last year, finishing fifth to French winner Le Glorieux.

Tony Bin and Moon Madness will be transferred to Japanese owners after the race. Both are scheduled to be retired to stud in Japan next year.

Best

Racing experts see Salem Drive, a six-year-old horse ridden by Chris Antley, as the best of the three American competitors.

Salem Drive easily won the Fuji Stakes, beating Sky Chase by four lengths. Antley said yesterday he was "very satisfied with Post Situation number one," and will "save all the ground early, and hope to finish up strong."

Grady takes Open lead

SYDNEY, Nov 25, (Reuters): Wayne Grady putted superbly for a course record 65 to take a one-shot lead in the Australian Open golf tournament today and set up the prospect of a rare double.

Grady's seven-under-par round included six birdies and an eagle and left him 11 under par on 133 for 36 holes and on course to complete the Australian PGA-Open double last achieved by compatriot Greg Norman in 1985.

Grady, who leads American Mark Calaveccia with Ireland's des Smyth another two strokes further back, beat Norman in a playoff for the PGA title earlier this month, a victory he said had made all the difference to his game.

"I'm not worried about any part of my game at the moment," Grady, 31, said after his excellent display.

"That's as good as I've ever

putted and I haven't holed that many putts since Adam was in shorts."

Grady, playing a hole behind Calaveccia, grabbed the lead with his third successive birdie at the 17th hole and retained it by sinking a 12-foot putt for par at the last after finding the trees.

Calaveccia, who carded seven birdies in another five-under-par 67, peppered the pin all day and would have finished leader but for Grady's excellent finish.

"I made a lot of birdies and I made a lot of putts," said Calaveccia. "My game's in good shape and I think I'll be somewhere around over the last couple of holes on Sunday."

Calaveccia, beaten by Sandy Lyle of Britain for the US Masters title this year, had a degree of misfortune. Putts at the 15th and 18th holes stopped half a ball width short of dropping, but he refused to complain.

Hadlee helps New Zealand restrict India

BOMBAY, Nov 25, (Reuters): The irrepressible Richard Hadlee ignored the pain of an old ankle injury to bowl New Zealand back into the second cricket Test today after India looked set for a big first innings lead.

He took four wickets in the final session to peg India back to 232 for nine at the close against the visitors' first innings 236.

Hadlee, who ended the day with five for 48, has now claimed five wickets in an innings 34 times in 76 Tests.

Returned

He was forced to leave the field after his 17th over for treatment to his ankle but returned to take two wickets in the three final overs.

Earlier, India at 134 for two were well in command. Krishna Srikanth was in one of his most arrogant moods, racing from 18 at lunch to 92 at tea during which time Hadlee was given only four overs.

Recalled at the start of the final session Hadlee, with only his seventh ball, had Srikanth caught off the shoulder of his bat by Trevor Franklin in the gully. Srikanth's brilliant 94 had come off only 137 balls.

With the exception of Hadlee, he took every bowler apart, hitting 10 fours and hammering John Bracewell for three sixes, mindful no doubt of a vitriolic exchange the two had in the middle during the first Test.



New Zealand players appeal for lbw against Arun Lal. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bracewell should have had his revenge but Ian Smith missed a straightforward stumping chance when Srikanth was on 58.

The final session went entirely New Zealand's way. Srikanth's

dismissal was preceded only a few balls earlier by that of Mohammad Azharuddin, caught at silly point off bat and pad for nine off Bracewell, and followed by the departure of Kapil Dev, who played on to

time in the morning when Bracewell was caught behind off Shastri for 52 and Chatfield had his leg-stump removed by Kapil for nought.

Shastri finished with four for 45.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND first innings (over-
night 231 for eight)
T. Franklin b More b Aiyub 18
J. Wright c More b Hirwani 33
A. Jones lbw b Kapil Dev 33
M. Greatbatch lbw b Shastri 46
K. Rutherford c Srikanth b Hirwani 6
T. Blain c Kapil Dev b Shastri 16
B. Hadlee b Patel b Hirwani 19
I. Smith b Shastri 13
J. Bracewell c More b Shastri 52
D. Morrison not out 27
E. Chatfield b Kapil Dev 9
Extras (lb-5 nb-7) 12
Total 236
Fall of wickets: 1-36 2-43 3-67 4-83
5-110 6-121 7-141 8-158 9-234
Bowling: Kapil Dev 15.3-4-48-2,
Patel 4-0-14-0, Aiyub 25-10-42-1, Hir-
wani 31-6-82-3, Shastri 18-1-45-4.
INDIA first innings
K. Srikanth c Franklin b Hadlee 94
Arun Lal lbw b Hadlee 9
N. Sidhu lbw b Chatfield 6
D. Vengsarkar c Blain b Bracewell 25
M. Azharuddin c Greatbatch b Brace-
well 9
R. Shastri b Chatfield 32
Kapil Dev b Hadlee 7
K. More not out 27
A. Aiyub c Bracewell b Hadlee 10
R. Patel c Rutherford b Hadlee 8
N. Hirwani not out 22
Extras (lb-5 nb-0) 11
Total (for nine wickets) 232
Fall of wickets: 1-26 2-34 3-134
4-150 5-150 6-172 7-209 8-224 9-229
Bowling to date: Hadlee 20-5-48-5,
Chatfield 18-6-41-2, Morrison 15.3-
1-57-0, Bracewell 21-6-81-2.

Imran agrees to tour after two team changes

ISLAMABAD, Nov 25, (Reuters): Imran Khan has agreed to lead Pakistan on their cricket tour of Australia and New Zealand after two team changes, including the selection of leg-spinner Abdul Qadir.

Chief selector Intikhab Alam said today that after three hours of talks on a basis of "give and take" it had been agreed Qadir would replace young leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmad and fast bowler Wasim Haider.

Imran had said he would withdraw unless there were changes in the 17-man squad, which was chosen before he made himself available for the tour.

Opted Qadir, the world's leading wrist spinner, had previously opted out of the tour, which begins on Dec 1, for family reasons. Intikhab said Qadir would not leave with the rest of the team on Sunday, but would join the squad later.

Aaqib and medium-fast bowler Salim Jaffer will also not be travelling on Sunday. Aaqib has to obtain a visa and Jaffer is



Imran Khan recovering from a pulled muscle in his left, bowling arm.

Aaqib, 18, has not performed well in domestic competition but impressed Imran in two charity matches in India last week.

Pakistan will take part in World Series Cup one-day games against Australia and West Indies in Australia in December and January before travelling to New Zealand for a Test series and more one-day matches.

Intikhab said any player not coming up to expectations would be replaced from a standby list for the New Zealand leg.

New Pakistan squad: Imran Khan, Javed Miandad, Mudassar Nazar, Moin-ul-Atiq, Salim Malik, Ejaz Ahmed, Aamer Malik, Salim Yousuf, Tauseef Ahmed, Wasim Akram, Saeed Anwar, Sajid Ali, Rameez Raja, Mohsin Kamal, Abdul Qadir, Aaqib Javed, Salim Jaffer.

English cricket to vote on eligibility

LONDON, Nov 25, (Reuters): England's cricket bosses will vote on December 8 on a proposal that would make Zimbabwe-born batting prodigy Graeme Hick eligible to play Test cricket next year instead of having to wait until 1991.

But the move, which would cut the England qualification period for players born in non-Test playing countries from seven years to four, is being strongly opposed by the majority of county cricketers.

Oppose

The Cricketers Association, the players' trade union, is lobbying against the proposal and chairman Geoff Cook said: "We will do all we can to oppose it."

"It used to be 10 years and last year it was reduced to seven. Our view is that the England team should, wherever possible, be open only to those players who are English."

But supporters of the move, which will be voted on by the ruling Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) next month, argue that it would bring England into line with other Test playing countries.

"Every other Test playing country in the world has a four-year qualification period, no matter where the player comes from," said TCCB chief executive Alan Smith.

"This proposal would still mean that overall our qualification conditions are more onerous than other countries but would prevent a player being penalised just because he happens to have been born in the wrong place."

Smith admitted that "everyone is aware that the effect would be to 'legitimise' Graeme Hick faster than would otherwise be the case."

"Cynics no doubt will say that this proposal is designed to give England a better side and improve Test match attendances. If you stop to think about it, there's not too much wrong with that anyway," Smith added.

Available

There is no doubt that Hick would be an automatic choice if he were available. While England were being thrashed by West Indies in the Test series last season, Hick picked up 2,713 runs in county cricket for Worcestershire, including a record-breaking innings of 405.

Opponents of the qualification cut say there are already too many overseas players in county cricket, to the detriment of young English players.

Should Hick become qualified to play for England, Worcestershire would be free to sign another overseas player.

CRICKET

Phillips hits W. Indies for unbeaten 68

MELBOURNE, Nov 25, (Reuters): Debutant Wayne Phillips scored an unbeaten 68 for Victoria today as West Indies spinner Roger Harper outshone his pace bowling teammates by taking three wickets on the first day of a four-day match.

Phillips was 246 for six wickets at the close after a day's play affected by rain. Phillips played a patient innings, receiving good support from captain Simon O'Donnell who hit Harper for a six before being dismissed for 33.

Two players vying for selection for the second Test in Perth, starting on December 2, had inconclusive displays.

West Indies paceman Patrick Patterson was fast but wayward in his comeback match following injury and finished with one for 53 off 15 overs which included an unhealthy 14 no balls and two wides. West Indies bowled 29 no balls in all.

Including

Victorian number three batsman Dean Jones put together 42 in two hours, including three fours, and looked at ease against the second string West Indies opening attack comprising Patterson, Ian Bishop and Winston Benjamin.

But he wasted his chance to impress Test selector Jim Higgs by attempting an ambitious pull off Harper and giving Benjamin a simple catch at mid-on. Harper finished with three for 45.

Jamie Siddons, another prospect for the Test team due to be announced on Monday, also disappointed, caught by Carl Hooper off Harper for nine, and it was left to Phillips to show his more illustrious teammates the way.

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